

THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
DISCOVERY and CONQUEST  
OF THE  
CANARY ISLANDS:

Translated from a SPANISH MANUSCRIPT,  
lately found in the Island of PALMA.

WITH AN  
ENQUIRY into the ORIGIN of the ANCIENT  
INHABITANTS.

To which is added,

A Description of the CANARY ISLANDS,

INCLUDING

The MODERN HISTORY of the INHABITANTS,  
and an Account of their Manners, Customs,  
Trade, &c.

By Capt. GEORGE GLAS.

With his LIFE and tragical END, on Board the Sandwich of  
London; and an Account of the Apprehending, Trial,  
Conviction, and Execution of the four Assassins, Perpetrators  
of that horrid Crime.

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In TWO VOLUMES.

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CANARY ISLANDS:

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By GEORGE GLAS.

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VOL. II.

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DESCRIPTION

CANARY ISLANDS

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An Account of their Customs, Manners,  
Trade, &c.

BY GEORGE GLAS

VOL. II.

A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
CANARY ISLANDS.

CHAP. I.

*A Description of Lancerota and the adjacent uninhabited Islands.*

**T**HIS island is very high, and may be discerned at a great distance. On approaching it seems very black, rocky, and barren. It is about fifteen miles long and ten broad. The latitude of the centre of the island is twenty-nine degrees eight minutes north.

THE principal port is on the south-east side, and is called Porto de Naos, where any vessel, not drawing above eighteen feet, may enter at high-water and spring tides, and lay secure from all winds and weather; although in sailing along the coast, the shipping appear as if at anchor in an open road, the harbour being formed by a ridge of rocks, which cannot be perceived at any distance, most of them lying under water: these break off the swell of the sea, so that the inside is as smooth as a mill-pond. As there is no other convenient place in this, or any of the rest of the Canary  
A 2 Islands,

Islands, for cleaning or repairing large vessels, it is much frequented for that purpose by the shipping which trade to these islands. At the west end of the harbour stands a square castle, built of stone, and mounted with some cannon, but of no very great strength, for ships of war may approach within musquet-shot of it.

At this port there is no town or village, but there are some magazines, where corn is deposited in order to be ready for exportation.

On the west side of the castle is another port, called Porto Cavallos, and by some El Recife. This is also an excellent harbour, formed, like Porto de Naos, by a ridge of rocks; but the entrance to it is shallow, there being no more than twelve feet water at spring-tides. Upon a small island, or large rock, between the two harbours, stands the aforesaid castle, which defends them both. This rock is joined to the land by a bridge, under which boats go from Porto de Naos to Porto Cavallos.

At the north end of Lancerota is a large spacious harbour, called El Rio, which is a streight or channel, dividing the island of Lancerota from the uninhabited island of Graciosa. A ship of any burthen may enter this harbour at one end, and go out at the other: if she keeps in the mid-way between the two islands, she will always have six or seven fathoms water.

But if a ship want a smooth place to lie in while the trade-wind blows, she must, in coming into this harbour from the eastward, run a good way in, and double a shallow point which

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which lies on the right hand, taking care to give it a good birth, which may easily be done by coming no nearer it than four fathoms; when past it, she may edge near to Graciosa, and anchor in any convenient depth of water; for it shoals gradually towards the shore, close to which there are two fathoms.

THIS is a convenient place in the summer-season for careening large ships; for a man of war of any nation that may happen to be at war with Spain, may come in here and unload all her stores, &c. on the island of Graciosa, and heel and scrub. Or if two chance to come in together, the one may heave down by the other; in doing which they need not fear any opposition from the inhabitants, for there is neither castle or habitation near this port.

BUT the water here is not so smooth as in Porto de Naos, especially if the trade-wind happens to blow hard from the east, which sends in a swell that makes it very troublesome, if not impossible to careen a ship properly. But the wind does not often blow from that quarter in this part of the world. That which prevails most is the north or north-north-east trade-wind. In mooring here, great care must be taken to have a good anchor and large scope of cable towards Lancerota; for in east or south-east winds, heavy gusts or squalls come from the high land of that island. In the winter the wind here sometimes shifts to the south-west, when it is necessary to weigh and run back to the eastward round the afore-said shallow point, until the ship be land locked from that wind, and there anchor.

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THAT part of Lancerota facing the harbour of El Rio is an exceeding high and steep cliff, from the bottom of which to the harbour or sea-shore, is about two musquet-shot distance. The ground in this space is low, and here is a salina or salt-work, being a square piece of land, levelled, and divided by shallow trenches about two inches deep; into these they let the sea-water, which, by the heat of the sun and the nature of the soil, soon turns into salt.

FROM the shore of this harbour there is no other way of access into Lancerota than by climbing a narrow, steep, and intricate path-way that leads to the top of the high cliff before-mentioned. It is scarce possible for a stranger to ascend it without a guide; for if he should chance to wander from the path, he could not easily find it again, and would be in imminent danger of breaking his neck.

THERE are no other ports in Lancerota besides those already mentioned. All the south side of the island may be reckoned one continued harbour when the trade-wind blows, for then the sea there is smooth, and a boat may land at many places without any danger from the surf.

ABOUT two leagues inland from Porto de Naos, towards the north-west, is the town of Cayas, or Rubicon, the chief habitation in the island, and which was formerly a Bishop's see. It contains about two hundred houses, a church, and a convent of Friars: it has an old castle, mounted with some guns for its defence. Most of the dwelling-houses here have but a mean appearance.

ABOUT

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ABOUT two leagues inland, and to the southward from the top of the narrow pathway of the cliff at El Rio, stands the town of Haria, the next in size to Cayas. I imagine it may contain about three hundred inhabitants. All the buildings here, except the church and three or four private houses, are very mean and poor. When I was there, it was the residence of the Governor, but the Alcalde Major and the officers of the Inquisition lived at Rubicon.

THE island Graciosa lies on the north side of the channel El Rio, and is an uninhabited and barren island, which is destitute of water. It is about three miles in length, and two in breadth. In the winter-season the natives of Lancerota send goats and sheep there to graze; but in the summer, when there is no rain, and the grass is dry and withered, they are obliged to bring them back to Lancerota.

FOUR or five miles north of Graciosa, lies Alegranza, a high and rocky island, barren, and destitute of water, consequently uninhabited. It is not so large as Graciosa. On viewing it from the top of a mountain in Graciosa, it appeared to me that a ship might ride at anchor in smooth water to leeward of it, where the sea seems to be coloured white, as if there was shoal-water and a sandy bottom. The natives of Lancerota go at certain times to Alegranza, to gather orchilla-weed.

ABOUT eight miles to the eastward of Alegranza and Graciosa is a large high rock in the sea, called Roca del Este, i. e. the East Rock. On the west side of those islands is another of the same size, Roca del Oeste, i. e. the West



Rock. South-west, about three leagues from Graciosa, lies a rocky uninhabited island, named Santa Clara. Many ships are wrecked upon these uninhabited islands in the night-time, being misled by errors in their reckoning, and also by those islands being improperly laid down in our charts, which generally place them thirty miles further south than they ought to be.

I remember, that, a few years ago an English ship ran, in the night, upon Aleganza, and was soon after beat to pieces. The crew with some difficulty got safe ashore upon the island, where they made several signals to acquaint the natives of Lancerota with their distress and bring them to their relief, but in vain.

MEAN time they had the good fortune to find some rain-water in the holes of the rocks; this, with what provisions they had saved from the wreck, enabled them to subsist for some days; but seeing famine staring them in the face, and observing that the wind blew almost continually from Aleganza toward Graciosa, they made a raft of spars, which they had saved from the wreck, and secured it well together with ropes; upon this raft the master of the vessel embarking, having a mast and sail, and an oar to serve instead of a rudder, boldly put to sea, and soon after safely landed in Graciosa, where, as it was then winter-season, he found some shepherds and fishermen, to whom he related his adventure and the distress of his crew: upon which the fishermen immediately went off in a boat to their relief, and brought them all safe to Lancerota.



## C H A P. II.

*Description of the Island of Fuertaventura.*

**T**HE north end of this island lies south-and-by-west from the south-west point of Lancerota, about seven miles distance.

IN the channel between them, but nearest to Fuertaventura, lies the little island of Lobos (i. e. Seals), which is about a league in circumference, uninhabited and destitute of water.

NEAR it there is a good road for shipping: the mark to find it, is to bring the east point of Lobos to bear north-east-by-north or north-east, and anchor half way between it and Fuertaventura, or rather nearer to Fuertaventura. Although this road seems to be open and exposed, yet it is very safe with the trade-wind, for the water is smooth, and the ground every where clean, being a fine sandy bottom. Right ashore from the road, on the shore of Fuertaventura, is a well of good water, easy to come at.

FUERTAVENTURA is about eighty miles in length, and in general fifteen in breadth; in the middle it is narrow and low, for it is there almost cut in two by the sea. That part of the island which is on the south side of the isthmus is mountainous, sandy, barren, and almost entirely uninhabited. The northern

part is also mountainous, yet the inland part is fertile and well inhabited.

IN sailing along this island, there are no houses to be discerned on the sea-coast, except at two or three places, where barks go to load corn.

ABOUT sixteen miles to the southward of the road, near Lobos, is a bay, in which there is a road where barks lie and lade corn; it is called Porto de Cabras: a stranger cannot find it without a pilot, for the ground all round it is rocky and foul. On the shore, near the road, is a patch of yellow sand, which appears off at sea like a few acres of ripe corn, or field of wheat just reaped: this is the best mark I know for finding Porto de Cabras.

Two leagues further along the shore, to the southward, is the port of Cala de Fustes, where corn is also shipped off. This harbour is only fit for small barks: here they lie secure from all winds, except the south-east, which rarely blows in that part of the world. When that happens, they immediately unload, and haul up their barks on the beach at high-water and then fill them with stones; so that notwithstanding the swell which the wind sends in, they remain immoveable and unhurt. There is a good road before the harbour, where ships may ride, which is described in the map of the islands.

THIS port may be known by a round black tower, and some houses near it. This tower is built of great stones with lime, after the same form as the castle of Rubicon in Lancerota, and, like it, has the door about twelve feet higher than the ground, so that to enter  
one

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one must place a ladder against the wall, and so climb up. The top of the tower is flat, with battlements round it, on which are mounted two or three cannon for the defence of the port and shipping from corsairs. A Serjeant of the militia, with his family, resides in a house close by, whose office it is to take an account of what corn is shipped off from the port. He is also Governor of the fort and harbour, and gives an account to the Governor of the island and the Alcalde Major, of all ships that arrive in the road or haven. In case of an enemy's ship appearing, he is to alarm the island, and retire with his family and the crews of the barks, into the tower, and draw in the ladder after him, and shut the door: in which case I imagine it would be no easy matter to get at them.

Four leagues to the southward of Cala de Fustes is a high, steep, rocky point, called Punta de Negro; between these are some bays, where ships may anchor, and where fresh water may be had; but a stranger cannot discover the proper anchoring-ground nor the watering-places, without a pilot. As I cannot pretend to give directions so exactly as that a stranger may not mistake them, I think it better not to give any. On the other side of Cape Negro is a spacious bay, called Las Playas: the best anchoring-place in it, is on the north side, within a large white sandy spot on the cliffs on the right hand going in: there it is clean sandy ground, at a convenient distance from the shore, in fourteen fathoms water. But because of the sudden gusts from the cliffs, and eddies of wind that blow from many  
points

points of the compass in this bay, it will be necessary to moor your vessel.

IN the north corner of the bay there is a well, easy of access, being close to the sea, which, if I remember right, flows into it at high-water. The water of this well is somewhat brackish, and soon stinks.

THE westward or leeward point of this bay is a high rocky cliff, the top of which projects and hangs over the sea: just beyond it is a sandy bay, called Gran Tarrahala, where a ship may anchor in six or seven fathoms water. On the shore of this bay is a wood of a sort of bushes like wild pine, some of which are big enough for fuel for shipping; an article of great value in Lancerota and Fuertaventura.

FROM Tarrahala bay, west-south-west half south, seven leagues distant, is a point called Morro Gable: all the land between is sandy, barren, and uninhabited.

FROM Morro Gable, west, twelve miles distance, is the point of Handia. There are many anchoring-places in this tract, with a trade-wind: the sea here is smooth, and there is plenty of good fresh water to be had. If you have not an experienced pilot, you must find out the best ground for anchoring in by the lead. The wells ashore cannot be found without a guide. But the bay of Handia, lying to the eastward of the point of that name, is a spacious bay, with clean sandy ground, where the sea is generally very smooth. About half a mile right off to sea from the point lies a sunken rock, which may sometimes be seen at low-water: the sea commonly breaks upon it. Beyond Point Handia, the shore  
turns

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turns to the northward, along by the other side of the island, unto the isle of Lobos. All this side of the island, except the middle, is much exposed to a northerly wind, which throws a heavy swelling sea on the many reefs of rocks that abound there, on which it breaks with great violence; but the middle part is a large bight, having a sandy shore, at a convenient distance from which there is good anchoring, and clear sandy ground. On the shore there is a port and village, called Toston, where barks lade corn: here is a tower, like that at Cala de Fustes. What is here said concerning this side of the island, I have from the relations of the Canary seamen; I have never been there myself. I shall now proceed to describe the inland places.

Nor quite two leagues inland from the road of Lobos before-mentioned, is a town called Oliva, situated in the middle of a plain abounding with corn-fields. Here is a church and some good houses, the number of them, if I remember right, may be about fifty. The next town to this, in the same direction from Lobos, is La Villa, the chief town in the island: this place is the centre of that part of the island lying north of the isthmus. Here is a church and a convent of Franciscan Friars; the number of houses are nearly an hundred.

A short league inland from Las Playas, is a town called Tunehe; this also contains about an hundred houses, but they are very mean, in comparison with those of La Villa and Oliva.

BESIDES these there are many small villages scattered up and down in the northern and inland

land part of the island, in such a manner that as soon as we lose sight of one, we come in view of another; but the sea-coast, as I said before, is rocky, barren, and uninhabited. The other half of the island, called Handia, is totally desolate, only here and there one meets with a shepherd's cottage, for there are no villages or farms in that part of the island.

BETWEEN the south-west end of Lancerota and the little island of Lobos, there is a broad channel, through which ships sail, being deep in the middle, and shoaling gradually towards Lancerota, near to which are five fathoms water, but very near or close to Lobos the ground is foul and rocky. There is room enough in this passage for ships of any burden to ply to windward, and there is no necessity for approaching too near to Lobos.

WHEN a ship comes from the eastward with the trade-wind, and is passing through this channel, bound to the westward, as soon as she brings a hill on Lancerota to bear right to windward of her, she will be becalmed, and soon after have the wind at south-west. When this happens, she must make short tacks until she gets into the trade again, or a constant northerly wind, the first puff of which will come to her at west or west-north-west, which when she receives she must not stand to the northward, otherwise she will immediately lose it again, but must stand towards Lobos, the nearer she approaches to which she will have the wind more large; and before she is two-thirds channel-over, she will have a steady wind at north or north-north-east.

THERE



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THERE is a channel between the north end of Fuertaventura and Lobos, but not so deep or broad as the other; yet to those who are acquainted with it, it is a good passage, for there is not less than five fathoms water in the fair way.

WHEN there is a great westerly swell hereabouts, the sea breaks on the rocks at the north-west end of Lobos, with such violence, that it is horrible to behold; and I may, without exaggeration affirm, that I have seen breakers there near sixty feet high; was one of these to strike the strongest ship, she would be staved to pieces in a moment. When I saw those mighty breakers, our ship had just passed through the channel between Fuertaventura and Lobos: we had a fine brisk trade-wind at north-north-east; and although we had no less than ten fathoms depth of water when we came into the westerly swell, yet we trembled for fear the waves would have broken, and thought ourselves happy when we got out of soundings. We heard the noise of these breakers, like distant thunder, after we were past them six or seven leagues.

## CHAP. III.

*Of the Climate, Weather, Soil, and Produce of  
the Islands of Lancerota and Puertaventura.*

**T**HE climate of those islands is exceeding wholesome, which may be owing to the driness of the soil and the strong northerly winds that almost continually blow upon them, so that the inhabitants in general live to a great age.

FROM the middle or end of April, unto the beginning or middle of October, the wind blows vehemently, and almost without intermission from the north and north-north-east: sometimes it veers a little to the eastward. From the middle of October to the end of April, it blows generally in the same direction, but now and then intermits and gives place to other winds. The south-west wind always brings rain, and therefore is a most welcome guest to these islands. Other winds bring showers, particularly the north-west; but those showers are partial, and of no duration, consequently are of little service to the ground: but the rain that comes from the south-west often lasts two or three days. It falls very thick, in small drops, and soaks into the earth, moistening it thoroughly. When these rains begin to fall, the natives sow their grain; and about fourteen or twenty days after  
the



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the latter rains, viz. towards the end of April, it is ready for reaping. Of the natures and properties of the winds that blow among those islands, I shall have occasion to treat at length in the description of the opposite continent. I shall only observe here, that the north and north-north-east winds blow so hard and constantly upon these islands, as to prevent the growth of all sorts of trees, especially in Lancerota, which is most exposed to their violence: yet we find a few shrubs or bushes there, called Tubaybas, which never grow to a great height any where; but here, because of the strong winds, they spread along the ground, except when sheltered from it by rocks or walls. In the gardens there are fig-trees and some low trees or shrubs, which seldom shoot up higher than the garden-walls.

FUERTAVENTURA is not quite so much exposed to the wind as Lancerota; therefore it is not quite so bare of trees and shrubs. Those that grow there are the palm, the wild olive, and a sort of wild pine, which the natives call Tarrabala. The cotton and euphorbium shrubs, fig-trees, and the shrub bearing the prickly pear, grow in gardens, although this last grows without cultivation in the fields in Canaria, and the islands to the westward thereof.

ALTHOUGH these islands are so destitute of trees, yet they abound with excellent herbage, among which grow several kinds of odoriferous flowers; the great plenty and variety of these induced the inhabitants to bring bees from the other islands, in order to propagate here; but they were disappointed in their expectations,

tions, as none of those insects would remain with them: in all probability they could not bear the violent winds which blow here. Corn of various kinds grow in Lancerota and Fuertaventura, namely, wheat, barley, maize or Indian corn, and in such abundance as not only to serve the inhabitants, but also those of Tenerife and Palma, who depend greatly on these islands for their sustenance.

TILL within these last thirty years Lancerota produced no vines: at that time a volcano broke out, and covered many fields with small dust and pumice-stones, which have improved the soil to such a degree, that vines are now planted there, which thrive well and yield grapes, but the wine made from them is thin, poor, and so sharp, that a stranger cannot distinguish it by the taste from vinegar; yet it is very wholesome. Fuertaventura produces a greater quantity of wine, which is of a quality something superior to that of Lancerota.

UPON the rocks on the sea-coast grows a great quantity of orchilla-weed, an ingredient used in dying, well known to our dyers in London. It grows out of the pores of the stones or rocks, to about the length of three inches: I have seen some eight or ten inches, but that is not common. It is of a round form, and of the thickness of common sewing twine. Its colour is grey, inclining to white: here and there on the stalk we find white spots, or scabs. Many stalks proceed from one root, at some distance from which they divide into branches. There is no earth or mould to be perceived upon the rock or stone where it grows. Those who do not know

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know this weed, or are not accustomed to gather it, would hardly be able to find it; for it is of such a colour, and grows in such a direction, that it appears at first sight to be the shade of the rock on which it grows. This weed dyes a beautiful purple; and is also much used for brightening and enlivening other colours. The best sort is that of the darkest colour, and of a form exactly round; the more it abounds with white spots or scabs, the more valuable. This weed grows in the Canary, Madeira, and Cape de Verd Islands, and on the coast of Barbary; but the best sort and the greatest quantity is found in the Canary Islands. That found on the adjacent coast of Africa is equal in quality, but, for want of seasonable rains, it does not grow near so fast. There is some reason to imagine that the orchilla was the Gertulian purple of the ancients. In support of this opinion, we may observe that the coast of Africa adjacent to the Canary Islands, was by the ancients called Getulia, and abounds with orchilla. I cannot conceive how the Europeans came to the knowledge of the use of this weed; for immediately on the discovery of the Canary Islands, they sought after it as eagerly as the Spaniards afterwards, on the discovery of America, did for gold: for the natives of the Canary Islands, and of that part of Africa formerly called Getulia, at this time know not the use of orchilla; neither doth it appear to any one to be a dye-stuff; for the colour is extracted from it by art and much preparation. None of it grows in any part of Europe that I know of, in such a quantity that one could gather a handful.

handful in the space of a day, except in the islands of the Archipelago, or on the rocks of Sicily, where of late they began to gather it, if I am not mistaken, only about eight or ten years ago. One would be apt to imagine, that in the days of the discovery of the Canaries, some book was extant that gave an account of the orchilla, the place of its growth, its use, and method of extracting its dye.

IN Lancerota are very few springs or wells of water. What the inhabitants use for themselves and cattle is rain-water, which they preserve in pits and cisterns. This method is also practised in Fuertaventura, though there they have more springs and wells, but the water is generally brackish. At El Rio, on the Lancerota side of the port, and to the northward of the salina before-mentioned, is a well of medicinal water, reckoned a sovereign cure for the itch. It is also good for common drinking, and will keep sweet at sea. It is easy of access, lying close to the water-side: it yields enough to fill two hogsheds in twenty-four hours. When I was there, it purged some of our crew for the first two days they drank of it; but afterwards it had no such effect.

THE cattle of those islands are camels, horses, asses, bullocks, sheep, goats, and hogs, all of which, excepting the sheep and goats, were brought to them since the conquest, from Barbary and Spain. The horses here are of the Barbary breed, and are much esteemed in Canaria and Tenerife for their spirit and swiftness; but as they are of little or no use in these islands, the natives having no distance to travel,  
and

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and the difficulty of transporting them by sea being so great, little or no care is taken to preserve or increase the breed; so that at present their number is very small. For travelling, the natives use asses of a larger size than those of the other islands, which are maintained at little or no expence, and serve well enough for their short journies.

IN the spring, their cattle are fat and good: they appear at that time quite plump, sleek, and glisten as if they were rubbed with oil; but in the beginning of autumn, when the grass is all withered or eaten up, they have a very different appearance, and are not fit for food.

THEY generally plow here with a camel or a couple of asses; for the soil is light, and they do not plow deep.

THE sea-coasts of Lancerota and Fuertaventura afford the inhabitants fish of various kinds in great plenty, particularly a sort of cod which they call Cherney, much better tasted than the cod of Newfoundland, or those of the North Sea. Another fish, of a yet more excellent taste, is caught here, called Mero: it is as long as a cod, but much thicker and has long straps or whiskers hanging at his mouth.

IT would be a tedious task for me to describe the various sorts of them, to which I could not give English names, though there is one sort I must not pass over; I mean the Picudo, or sea-pike, the bite of which is as poisonous as that of a viper; yet this fish, when killed and dressed, is good and innocent food. On the rocks, by the sea-shore, are  
many



many shell-fish, particularly limpets, which the natives make a proper use of.

THE want of wood or bushes occasions a scarcity of birds and wild-fowl; yet there are some Canary-birds, and a bird called Tubayba, about the size of a starling, speckled black and white; here are also partridges and ravens, with plenty of dunghill-fowls; but no turkeys, geese, or ducks: the want of the two last-mentioned species may probably be owing to the scarcity of water in the islands. Here are no venomous animals but the black spider, the bite of which, the natives say, is poisonous, and occasions a swelling attended with a burning pain: their cure for it is to eat a small quantity of human excrement. Probably the great natural antipathy to this medicine has such an effect on the human frame, as to kill or expel the venom received by the bite.

ON the north-side of the uninhabited island of Graciosa, is a small sandy bay, called by the natives Playa del Ambar. Here is sometimes found a very good kind of ambergrease, in form something like a pear, having commonly a short stalk: by this it should seem that it grows on the rocks under-water, which are near to this place, and is washed ashore by the waves, for it is generally found after stormy weather.

IN Lancerota and Fuertaventura are many hills that have formerly been volcanos, the tops of which are of a small circumference, and are hollow for a little way downwards, the edges of the tops being generally very narrow and sharp. Upon the outside is  
com-

## THE CANARY ISLANDS. 23

commonly seen a great deal of black dust and burnt stone like pumice-stone, only darker and more ponderous. This substance seems to have been thrown out of the bowels of the earth by the eruptions, none of which have been known to happen in these two islands of late ages, except at Lancerota; where, about thirty years ago, a volcano broke out on the south-west part of the island, which threw out such an immense quantity of ashes and huge stones, and with so dreadful a noise, that many of the natives deserted their houses and fled to Fuertaventura, for the preservation of their lives: some time after, finding that those who remained in Lancerota had received no hurt, they took courage and returned. This volcano was near the sea, in a remote place from any habitation. In the sea, at a small distance from the volcano, issued a pillar of smoke, and afterwards a small pyramidal rock arose, which remains to this day. This rock was joined to the island by the matter thrown out of the volcano; the noise of this eruption was so loud and great, that it was heard at Tenerife, although at the distance of forty leagues. The noise being conveyed so far, might probably be occasioned by the winds generally blowing from Lancerota towards Tenerife.

## CHAP.

## CHAP. IV.

*Of the Inhabitants of Lancerota and Fuertaventura, their Method of Living, Manners, and Customs, &c.*

**A**LTHOUGH the natives of these islands pass for Spaniards, yet they are sprung from a mixture of the ancient inhabitants, the Normans, and other Europeans who subdued them, and from some Moorish captives, whom Diego de Herrera and others brought to the islands from the coast of Barbary, as has been observed in the History of the Discovery and Conquest.

THEY are, in general, of a large size, robust, strong, and of a very dark complexion. By the natives of the rest of the Canary Islands they are accounted rude and unpolished in their manners: this character I believe to be true; for, by what I have had occasion to observe of them, they seem to be avaricious, rustic, and ignorant, especially those of Lancerota.

THEY neither speak nor understand any other language than the Castilian, and this they pronounce most barbarously. They dress coarsely, and after the Spanish modern fashion; for the short-cloak and golilla, formerly used by the Spaniards, are not known here. Their houses are built of stone and lime; those of the



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the gentry are covered with pan-tiles; but the meaner sort are thatched with straw: very few, even of the better kind, are ceiled or lofted, but are built in form of large barns, and divided into apartments by boarded partitions that run no higher than the top of the walls; so that the rooms are all open above, having nothing to cover them except the pan-tiled roof. The floors are commonly paved with flag-stones.

THE food of the peasants is generally what they call *Goffio*, which is flour of wheat, or barley, toasted: this they mix with a little water, and bring to the consistence of dough, and thus eat it. This simple diet requires neither spoons, knives, nor forks. Sometimes indeed, they refine on this fare, by dipping every handful of their *Goffio* in honey or melasses. In the winter-season, when the grass is in perfection, they have plenty of rich and excellent milk, in which they put the *Goffio*, and so eat it, using sea-shells instead of spoons: to a hungry man this is no mean food. Another way of preparing *Goffio*, is by putting it into boiling milk, and then stirring it about until it is sufficiently boiled and thickened. Although the poor people, on particular occasions, such as great festivals, weddings, &c. eat flesh and fish, yet, as I said before, *Goffio* is their common food. As to bread, it is rarely used by any but the gentry; there are some people in these islands who know not the taste of it. One reason for this may be, that fuel is very scarce, especially in Lancerota, insomuch that I am at a loss to conceive how the gentry there get a sufficient quantity to dress their viands.

THE peasants value themselves much on account of their Goffio diet, and despise the bread-eaters of the other islands. Wine they seldom drink, or indeed any thing else than water. Their employment is plowing the ground, sowing and reaping corn, and other labour in husbandry. There are few men artificers in Lancerota and Fuertaventura; for their cloaths are almost all made by the women; household furniture, &c. are brought to them from the other islands. There are but few monks, and no nuns in these islands: however, they are in no want of priests, for there are several parish churches, and an inferior Court of Inquisition in each of these islands, to prevent heresy; so that the religion of the church of Rome is the only one professed among them.

THE gentry are very averse to leaving their country, having not the least curiosity to travel and see the world. Very few of them visit Spain, or even Canaria, unless when they are obliged to attend their law-suits in that island. A gentleman here, possessing a few acres of land, a dozen of sheep, a couple of asses, and a camel, would chuse rather to live all his days on Goffio, than venture to the Spanish West Indies to mend his fortune by trade or any other employment: he would even imagine that by engaging in such an undertaking, he should disgrace himself and family for ever. Yet he would not be ashamed to oppress the poor peasants, and meanly deceive or take advantage of strangers, in order to support what is called rank in those islands, which, among the class of gentry I am describing, consists wholly

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wholly in not working, or in riding a short distance on an ass, attended by a ragged servant, instead of travelling on foot : these are the points in which they distinguish themselves from the vulgar.

To give a more distinct idea of the manner and customs of these people, I shall here insert the particulars of some journies I made in Lancerota and Fuertaventura. In my passage from the coast of Africa to Tenerife, I happened to touch at Cala de Fustes, in Fuertaventura, where, immediately on our arrival, the officer of the port sent an express to the Governor at Oliva, to acquaint him therewith. By the return of the express I received an order to come on shore to him with all convenient speed ; the officer of the port having procured me a saddled ass (for a horse was not to be had) with a guide. We set out from the port about three o'clock in the afternoon ; and after having travelled about two hours through dry, barren, and stony places, where we saw some goats and camels grazing, we came to a fine level country, where were many corn-fields, with houses and small villages scattered amongst them. At sun-setting we came near a parish church and parsonage ; I intreated the guide to conduct me to the parson's house, to lodge that night, as there are no inns or public houses in Fuertaventura ; but he excused himself, under various pretences, and persuaded me to proceed about a mile further, to a rich farmer's house, where he said we should be more hospitably entertained. When we arrived there our host received us frankly, and ordered a couple of

fowls to be killed and dressed for supper, which were presently made ready by his wife. In the mean time the news of the arrival of a stranger having spread through the village, all the inhabitants came to see me; they asked me a number of curious questions concerning England and Spain, with the latter of which they are as little acquainted as with the former. They were so inquisitive; that I was quite spent with talking, and they scarcely allowed me time to eat, and did not leave me till ten o'clock, which is a very late hour for going to bed in that country. At supper, nobody sat at table but the farmer and myself; his wife, as the custom is there, waited on us; and when we had supped, removed the fragments, and then went to sup by herself. My guide supped with the servants upon Goffio and melasses or honey, in the same room with us: this they are not used to, but being curious, and not willing to lose the pleasure of conversing with a stranger, they thought it a sufficient excuse for dispensing with decorum. The farmer, after supper, treated the whole company with a tumbler of wine each, which made them talk more than they were accustomed to; for the servants there are seldom indulged with a glass of wine. At night, my guide, who slept in the same bed, disturbed me much with his scratching, having the itch, or sort of scab, to which the people in all the Canary Islands are very much subject; the cause of which I know not: but it is certain, that the people who dwell in countries remarkable for the purity of the air, are more subject to this disorder, than those who live  
in

in places where the air is moist and damp. We rose before day-break, and pursued our journey, leaving our host and his family fast asleep. We now passed through a good country, well peopled. Upon the road we met a couple going to church to be married, with their retinue all riding on asses: they saluted us in this manner, "Ave Maria," i. e. Hail Mary; to which my guide answered, "Sin peccado concebida;" that is, Conceived free from original sin. He reproved me several times for not answering the people we met, in the same manner as he did: as I did not chuse to enter into a dispute with him, I told him, it would be quite ridiculous in me to conform to one Spanish custom, unless I could do so in all. In the course of our conversation on the road, he told me that the farmer, who had entertained us, was exceeding rich; and confessed that his reason for not putting up at the priest's house, as I desired him, was because he could not use the freedom there to beg provender for his ass; but that if he had known what was to happen, he would have complied with my request, "For, said he, the rich miser made me pay for my barley; and did you mark how sparing he was of his wine; and when his wife wanted aught, she came to the churl for the keys." I would advise all strangers, who may chance to be travelling in Lancerota or Fuertaventura, to put up at a priest's, for the clergy there are more capable to furnish lodging, provision, and conversation, than either the peasants or gentry. The rich farmer before-mentioned had often been at Tenerife, to sell his corn, and knew

all the Irish merchants there: those people are all zealous members of the Romish church; and there are no protestant merchants in any of the islands, except the English Consul and another. Being curious to know what opinion the natives had of the Irish merchants, I enquired of my host, if he knew a person or two, whom I named, and what he thought of them? He seemed to have a just notion of each; but at last, after, I had asked after about ten of them, he said, "Sir, these are all catholics, and very good people, but they are only Christians of St. Patricio." I desired to know what he meant by this; he gave me no direct answer, but shook his head and said, "These men are very well in their way, but must not be compared to the Christians of these islands. Ay, ay, added he, smiling, it is not for nothing they come to our country." About noon we arrived at Oliva, the residence of the Governor, who, with his son, was sitting in a large hall, paved with flags, the sides of which were adorned with musquets, swords, and pikes. On my entry they received me in a distant but polite manner, and desired me to sit down. After asking me several questions relating to the occasion of my coming to the island, and whither I was bound, they began to converse more freely, and enquired if I was a catholic? When they found I was not, they said, "Is it possible, Signior, that a person of your prudence and good understanding can have any just reason for not embracing our most holy religion?" As I was greatly fatigued with my journey, and faint with hunger and thirst, I wanted  
much



much to evade the argument, which I saw approaching; so I told them, every country had its peculiar customs and religion, to which each native was so strongly attached, that it was almost as impossible to persuade him to change his opinion, as to alter his form. Upon this, to my great comfort, dinner appeared, which for the present, gave a truce to the conversation. The dinner consisted of a certain soup made of oil, vinegar, water, pepper, and onions, with a few thin slices of bread; after this course came three boiled eggs, with tolerable good wine and bread. While we were eating, I perceived some ladies peeping at us from the adjacent apartments, who, as soon as they thought they were discovered, withdrew. After dinner, the religious conversation was revived, when, finding my spirits pretty well recruited, and that I could not well evade the argument as before, I disputed with them a considerable time, and at last told them it was in vain for us to talk any more on the subject; for as I held the Christian religion only by the sacred writings of the Old and New Testament, all their arguments drawn from the authority of the church, the writings of the fathers, and the opinions of saints and wise men, went with me for nothing: and added, that if the religion of the New Testament was the same with that now professed by the Romish and Protestant churches, it made that book to be false and incoherent; because the New Testament plainly declares, that no man in any place can embrace or profess Christianity, without suffering worldly loss in some way or other, solely on account of his religion. But, on the contrary, in

Spain, and many other countries, a man cannot be a member of society, unless he profess what they call Christianity; which is so far from being a loss to those who profess it, that it is the first step to honour and riches. As the Governor's son had heard just so much about the sacred writings, as to know that the church pretends to hold them in esteem, he did not contradict what I said of them, but replied, that he was sure I must be wrong; and that if I would stay some time in the island, he would bring a learned and pious priest, who should soon convince me of my error, and shew me, that out of the church of Rome there could be no salvation. Then rising, he desired me to look at the arms with which the hall was adorned, most of which were grown rusty: he asked me if we had any so good in England. Upon this a servant entered, and informed them that their horses were saddled and ready. The Governor then said he was sorry he was obliged to leave me so soon, gave me a Bill of Health, and an order to be supplied with what I wanted, and then took his leave, wishing me a happy return to my own country. Before he departed he ordered a servant to give us some bread and wine, to refresh us by the way on our return to Cala de Fustes. Having this provision, we did not stop by the way, as before, but went through desert places, a nearer road to Cala de Fustes, where we arrived at two o'clock next morning, and went on board. When we arose next day, the Mate informed me, that the Alcalde Major had been on board very early in the morning, and had waited for me  
until



until the evening. He found the first volume of *Don Quixote*, in Spanish, lying in the cabin, with which he was much pleased, and employed himself all that day in reading it, except when he left off to breakfast and dine: it seems he had never seen that book before. He left orders with the officer of the tower, to desire me to wait on him at the Villa; but the Mate, in my absence, having got on board all the fresh water and provisions which were wanted, and for which and a Bill of Health we came to the island, we thought proper to dispense with the order of the Alcalde Major, and sailed the next day. It is customary in English ships lying at anchor in a road, to have a candle burning all night, to be ready in case of accidents, and a man or two on the deck to keep watch: my guide observing all this, imagined these things were done by way of respect to me; for when I dismissed him, he said, that if the Governor and gentry of the island had the least notion of the grand manner of living in our ship, they would not despise seafaring people so much as they did; for, added he, none of them eat so well, or drink so good wine, as your seamen.

The second time I was at Fuertaventura, we were forced in there from the coast of Barbary, by a gale of wind; for Cape Negro in this island is not more than about seventeen leagues distant from that coast. We anchored at that time in the bay of Las Playas, and determined to remain there a few days till the weather should change.

ON our arrival, I sent a messenger to the Alcalde Major, to inform him of our being in  
 B 5 the

the bay; but receiving no answer, I went ashore the next day, with one of our crew, and walked up to the village called El Tunehe, about three miles distant. On our arrival there, we went into a cottage for shelter from the sun, and desired the good woman of the house to give us something to eat and drink. She immediately boiled some milk with Goffio of barley, and prepared it for our refreshment, which we found to be a most excellent dish. It being then about the end of May, the weather excessive hot, and our faces scorched with the strong warm breezes that blow fiercely there at that season, we, immediately after our meal, fell fast asleep. About an hour after, we were awaked by some of the principal inhabitants, who demanded of us from whence we came, and what we wanted in the island? After answering them, we walked out of the house to view the town, which I think is the poorest in all the Canary Islands. As the wind blew strong, and was therefore very disagreeable, they conducted us into a garden, where we sat down behind a wall, for shelter from the wind, and were agreeably shaded from the rays of the sun, by the wide spreading branches of a large fig-tree. Here we had a great deal of conversation; and among other things, I asked them how these islands were first peopled? One of them answered, that the Roman general Sertorius was the first who discovered and sent inhabitants to them. He said, the reason why Lancerota and Fuertaventura were more barren than the rest of the Canary Islands, was on account of their vicinity to the coast of Africa, " Which, said he, you very well

well know is dry and sandy." At first sight of this man, we told him we had dispatched a messenger to inform the Alcalde Major of our arrival, and to provide asses to carry us to him; but after waiting long, and seeing no appearance of our messenger's return, or of any preparations for our journey, we told him we could stay no longer, but would immediately return to our vessel, if he did not send us forthwith to the Alcalde Major. Upon which, after some hesitation, and looking as one ashamed, he told us, that since the truth must come out, it signified nothing to disguise it any longer, and therefore he had to acquaint us, that as no person was allowed to enter the island without the licence of the Alcalde Major, whose office it was to take care that no infectious distemper should be brought into it, they, being his servants, had taken the liberty to detain us prisoners until his pleasure should be known. We were a little alarmed at this declaration; but luckily the Alcalde Major with his retinue arrived at that instant, and freed us from our uneasiness. About an hour after, being provided with asses, at four o'clock in the afternoon, we set out, being about eight in company, and travelled all that evening through corn-fields until sun-set, when we passed through narrow defiles betwixt the mountains, and arrived at the Alcalde Major's house about nine at night. After having conducted us into a room, he left us there for about half an hour, and retired into another apartment where was his family. When supper was ready, he returned to us. We were fortunate enough to find bread at the table instead

stead of Goffio-dough, and wine that was drinkable, with a couple of broiled chickens ; which was a repast far better than I expected in such a place, and at such a late hour. On the door of our bed-room was pasted a printed paper, called an Ave Maria, which ran as follows : " Hail, Mary ! conceived without original sin. Whenever any one fervently, " and with sincere devotion repeats these " words, he causeth great joy in heaven, and " infinite terror in hell." When I asked the Alcalde about this paper, he informed us that some missionaries from Spain came lately to the islands, in their way to the Indies, where observing a want of devotion to the Virgin, they, in order to enliven it, caused the natives to buy those papers, and paste them on the doors of their houses and apartments.

NEXT morning we walked out to see the town, which is pleasantly situated in a narrow bottom, surrounded with hills. It has a large beautiful church and convent, built of hewn stone : most of the houses of the town are neat, but without either balconies or any outer courts, as is the manner of building the houses of people of fashion in Spain and in the other islands. In the gardens of the town we saw no fruit or other trees, except a few palms or fig-trees, and some of the shrub bearing the prickly pear. After our walk we returned to the house, where we breakfasted on bread, broiled chickens, cheese, wine, and sweet-meats ; for the gentry here do not make use of chocolate, like those in the rest of the islands. All the time we were in the Alcalde's house we saw no women, except the servants, it not being

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being the custom there for women of fashion to appear before strangers. About ten in the morning we took our leave of him, and returned to Las Playas. On our way thither we stopped at a gentleman's house, who was a native of Tenerife, and farmed the King's revenue upon snuff and tobacco in this island. His house was two stories high, with balconies. He ordered us each a dish of chocolate, and entertained us after a free, open, and hospitable manner; and when we took our leave of him, he made one of his servants fill our guide's sack full of bread, cheese, and bottles of wine.

NEXT day the Alcalde Major and the Governor's son came to visit me on board the ship at Las Playas. The latter immediately recollected his having seen me when I was at Oliva, and reprimanded me because I had not waited on his father. I excused myself in the best manner I could. And when the Alcalde Major understood I was the same person, on board whose vessel he had been some years before, at Cala de Fustes, he asked me in a very serious manner, why I went away that time without seeing him, and paying his fees: he added, that the duty of a master of a vessel, is, whenever he arrives in the island, to wait upon him immediately. In answer to all this, I pleaded ignorance of the Spanish customs; which is a good apology for strangers to make at all times when they fall into any mistakes, and are thereby embarrassed in that country. After entertaining them in the best manner I could, they went ashore, being sea-sick, and lodged in a cave near the sea. We struck a bargain

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bargain with them for a cargo of wheat, for one of the vessels, for at that time I had two in the bay, one of which I intended should carry this corn to the island of Madeira.

IN order to take on board the corn, it was absolutely necessary to receive a visit of the Inquisition, &c. before which no vessel can trade in these islands. But when these crafty gentlemen found I was in earnest about buying corn, and that I had received the visits of the Inquisitors, they, expecting to make me pay them more money for it, pretended they could not buy the corn so cheap as they imagined: "Besides, said they, we run a great risque of being called to account for exporting corn contrary to law." When I perceived them shuffling, I altered my design of buying corn, but attempted to trade with the rest of the inhabitants for cash and what little provision I wanted for the vessels; but this did not succeed, for the Alcalde Major and his associates, by their power and authority in the island, so intimidated the natives, and laid so many stumbling blocks in their way, that they could not buy any thing from me. The Alcalde, finding his scheme had taken effect, and that I was disappointed, proposed again to sell the cargo of corn, and to abate something of the price which I had rejected. When he made this proposal I was ashore and in his power, therefore did not tell him all I thought, but seemed to agree to his offer; but as soon as I got on board, prepared every thing for sailing. As soon as they perceived this from the shore, they immediately sent a boat aboard, with a message beseeching me to stay, and  
that



## THE CANARY ISLANDS. 39

that if I would come ashore, they would make me offers to my satisfaction. I told the messenger there was no trusting to what they said; upon which, when he found me in earnest, he presented me with a bill of the dues and fees of the Inquisition, and of the Alcalde Major for the two different times I had been in the island, in all amounting to about six pounds. I told the messenger to give my compliments to the Alcalde and the officers of the Inquisition, and tell them I would pay them when ever I should have the pleasure of seeing them again: and so we departed. During the time the Alcalde Major and his companions lodged in the cave by the sea-shore, they subsisted on what provisions we sent ashore to them, and on fish, for they could not remain in the ships by reason of sea-sickness. At that time some of the fishermen caught in the bay a huge tortoise, or logger-head turtle, weighing about five hundred pounds, which they brought ashore, and placed on its back upon a great stone, then cut its throat, from which the blood issued forth in a large smoking stream. Having no vessel at hand to receive it, the Alcalde and the rest of the gentry caught as much of it as they could in their hands, and drank it off. When they observed our disgust at the sight of such a barbarous and beastly repast, they shook their heads, and told us it was an excellent remedy for the itch, and invited us to partake likewise; to the increase of our loathing, we observed their hands blotched with scabs and ulcers.

IN this voyage we had on board, as an interpreter on the coast of Africa, a Barbary Jew.

Jew. When we came to Fuertaventura, I gave strict orders to our crew not to tell the islanders who he was, for fear of an accident in case he should venture ashore; and before I went myself, I advised him to keep on board, for fear the Inquisition should get notice of, and detain him. But, notwithstanding my caution, he went ashore, and travelled to the village of Tunehe, where he passed for a catholic. As he spoke very good Spanish, the natives were very fond of conversing with him; and one of them happening to ask him what countryman he was, he replied an Italian; the other asked him if he had ever been in Rome, to which he readily answered in the affirmative: "And have you ever seen God's Vicar upon earth?" "Yes, said he, and received his blessing also." Upon this they conducted him to their houses, where they treated him with the best they had, and made him some presents of Goffio-meal, kids, and fowls; but when some of our poor heretical sailors went to that village, they never so much as desired them to come into their houses, or asked them to eat or drink, until they shewed them money.

WHEN I first came to the island of Lancerota, we anchored in the port of El Rio before-mentioned, from whence I immediately dispatched a shepherd, whom I found there, to the Governor to give him notice of our arrival. He returned the same day, and brought with him one of the Governor's servants, with a saddled ass, and an order for me wait on him at the village of Haria. Accordingly I went ashore, and took a Tenerife boy along with me.

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me. After we had ascended the steep cliff by the narrow path-way, we found the saddled ass waiting for us, upon which I mounted, and soon came to the village, where I found the Governor sitting on a bench before the door of his house; who, on my approaching him, embraced and saluted me after the Spanish fashion. He was dressed in a black taffety waistcoat, and breeches of the same stuff, white silk stockings, a linen night-cap laced, with a broad-brimmed hat slouched. This dress made him appear extremely tall, and he was in reality about six feet high, and seemed to be about fifty-five years of age. After sitting some time with him at the door, he brought me into the house, and introduced me to some ladies, whom I took to be his wife and daughters. This was a favour of no small account in this or any other of the Canary Islands. Although I left the ship before dinner-time, nobody asked me if I had dined, so that I fasted that day from morning to night. There is a strange sort of delicacy among the gentry here, which is, that one must not ask for any thing to eat, though ever so hungry or faint, in a strange house; as a freedom of that kind would be looked on as the highest degree of vulgarity and ill-breeding: therefore, when I found an opportunity, I made a pretence of going out to speak to my servant, but in reality to try to get some victuals privately. The Tenerife boy I found had suffered as much as myself: however, I gave him some money and sent him to bring whatever he could find that was eatable; and in case he could procure nothing better, to bring me a lump of Gossiodough,

dough, or handful of meal: but his search proved in vain, there being no such thing as bread or any eatables sold there. At last supper-time came, and the repast was, for that part of the world, not only a good one, but very elegant, consisting of many different dishes. All the time we were at table, the ladies were very particular in their enquiries concerning the English women, their appearance, dress, behaviour, and amusements. I replied, to all their questions as well as I could; but they were greatly shocked at the account I gave of their free behaviour; but when I informed them of the manners of the French ladies, they told me plainly that it was not possible there could be any virtuous women among them. After the ladies retired, the old gentleman magnified the power, wealth, and grandeur of the King of Spain, above all the Kings of the world. As an instance of the courage of the Spanish seamen, he said it was a rule, if a Spanish man of war should happen to meet two of the same force of any other nation, she was not to run away, but was obliged to engage them; and if she met three, the Captain might, if he pleased, endeavour to avoid them, but if he fled, it was always looked on as a dastardly action. He added, that the Spaniards, in courage, temperance, honour, and zeal for the true religion, surpassed all the rest of the world. With this and the like discourse he entertained me for the space of an hour; among other questions, he asked me if England and France were in the same island, or if they were different islands. I entreated the honour of his company on  
board

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board my ship at El Rio: he said, he would come with all his heart, if my ship were at Porto de Naos, but that it would be indecent for a man of his quality to descend the cliff on all fours. Next morning I set out for El Rio, in company with the Stankero, or farmer of the King's duty on snuff and tobacco. We were mounted on asses, which set off with us on a full gallop, but did not long continue that pace. The Stankero hindered us much on the road, as he carried a fowling-piece with him, and shot at every bird he could see, without alighting, and we were obliged to wait for him. He told me, the only pleasure he had in life was to take his gun in the morning, mount his ass, and go a-shooting. When we came to the steep cliff, one of the gentlemen would not alight, but ordered his servant to lead his ass down the path; but the servant being wiser than himself, with great difficulty dissuaded him from this piece of state, by representing to him the impossibility of doing it without breaking his neck: so fearful are these people of demeaning themselves by using their legs.

THE Stankero and his friends came on board, and bought some goods of us, which they were to pay for in orchilla-weed. After the conclusion of the bargain, we entertained them in the best manner we could, for three days that they remained on board, waiting for the orchilla-weed, which they had sent for from the other end of the island. Their servants told us, that their masters had never lived so well in their lives, and that one of the gentlemen in particular never  
tasted.

tasted flesh meat at home : however, we were perfectly sensible that this did not proceed from any natural antipathy, or temperance ; for with us he eat, or rather devoured, six pounds of meat at every meal.

WHILE we remained at El Rio, our Carpenter and Boatswain set out together, after breakfast, to visit the village of Haria, and being strangers to the customs of the place, neglected to take provisions with them. When they got on shore, the first thing they did, seamen-like, was to look out for a public house ; but their labour proved in vain, and therefore they went into several houses, in hopes that somebody would be courteous enough to offer them something to eat ; but, though they found the people ready enough to talk with and ask questions of them, yet no one offered to supply their wants. At last, seeing some ladies and people at the door of the Governor's house, they sauntered towards them, in expectation that their curiosity might induce them to call to them ; so far they were right, for they asked them a multitude of questions, but never enquired if they were either hungry or thirsty : however, one of the seamen, thinking to give them a hint of their necessity, begged the favour of a draught of water, which was readily brought them, but neither victuals or wine ; so they found they had nothing left, but to make the best of their way back to the ship. In their road they met with a man riding on a camel, and being quite faint with fasting, they agreed with him, for a real, to alight, and let them ride on the camel to the brow of the cliff. When they  
were



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were got about half way thither, the camel chanced to shake himself, and the sailors, wholly unused to, and not expecting such a sudden motion, came tumbling headlong to the ground. The driver, in a surprize, asked them what was the matter, and endeavoured to persuade them to remount, but in vain; and when he demanded the hire of the beast, they told him it was well they did not break his bones, and so walked off: the driver having no one near to assist him, did not offer to pursue them.

THESE stories may appear very trifling and impertinent to the reader; but I relate them to give some idea of the manners of those people. When we enquired of them the price of any thing, such as sheep, fowls, or hogs, this was their common reply, "To the natives of the country, we sell them at such a price; but to strangers we cannot sell them under so much more." This is alone sufficient to shew their inhospitable and brutal disposition.

## C H A P. V.

*Of the Government and Trade of Lancerota and Fuertaventura, &c.*

**A**LTHOUGH all the Canary Islands are subject to the crown of Spain, yet the natives of the two islands which we are now describing, and those of Gomera and Hierro, hold not their lands of the crown, but of the descendants of the house of Herrera.

CHIEF part of the power and jurisdiction originally possessed by the proprietors of these islands, was taken from them and annexed to the crown; probably on account of their abuse of such an extensive authority; and the government is now invested in an Alcalde Major, and a Sargento Major, otherwise called Gobernador de las Armas. The first of those officers is the head of the civil, and the other of the military government. From the decision of the Alcalde Major there is an appeal to the Royal Audience in the island of Canaria: and the Sargento Major receives his orders from the Governor-general of the Canary Islands, who commonly resides in Tenerife. There are no standing forces kept here; but there is a militia, properly regulated, and divided into companies, to each of which there is a Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign.

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Ensign. The Sargento Major is Colonel, or chief of the whole, and takes care to see that their arms, &c. are kept in proper order, that the companies may be raised at a short warning; for some time after the conquest of these islands, the natives were frequently disturbed by Algerine corsairs, and especially those of Lancerota, where a fleet of those people landed, and carried off no less than one thousand six hundred and forty-eight persons \*, being almost all the inhabitants of the island. The Governor gave me the following account of this affair. When the natives found that the Algerines were too strong for them, they fled into the caves in the island. The main body of them took refuge in a very spacious one that runs above a mile in length underground. The Algerines pursued them closely, but were afraid to enter the cave, and therefore contented themselves with closely blocking up its mouth, thinking to oblige the islanders to surrender for want of food. But in this they were deceived; for there was a private passage at the other end, by which the natives used to go forth in search of provisions. Unfortunately one of them, who was upon this business, was taken by the Moors, who promised him his life and liberty if he would discover to them by what means the people shut up in the cave, procured sustenance. The prisoner, dreading immediate death if he did not comply, informed them of the truth; whereupon they stopped up the other entry, and thus compelled those within to surrender:

\* Gramaye says this happened in the year 1618.  
and

and notwithstanding a fleet of Spanish men of war was then cruising in the Streights of Gibraltar, to intercept them, they arrived safe at Algiers, with their prisoners and booty. The King of Spain was pleased afterwards to ransom these poor people, and send them back to their native country. In those days Lancerota was but thinly inhabited, but it is now quite otherwise. Some time about the year 1748, the Algerines made another descent upon this island. The natives, who were now better acquainted with the manner of defending themselves, did not offer to oppose their landing, but suffered them to advance into the country, when, getting between the corsairs and their boats, they surrounded and cut every one of them in pieces, except only those who were left to guard the boats. Since that time the Algerines have never attempted to land in any of the Canary Islands. In the year 1596, a small squadron of English ships, commanded by the Earl of Cumberland, came to anchor near Port de Naos. This squadron was going to attack the Spanish settlements in the West Indies; but the Earl having intelligence from some of his seamen (who had been prisoners in the island) of a Marquis reckoned to be worth an hundred thousand pounds, who lived in the town of Cayas, and who was Lord of Lancerota and Fuertaventura; he determined to touch there, and seize him, in order to procure a good sum for his ransom. These men assured him, that they knew the place so well, that they could conduct him by night to the Marquis's house. But when the fleet came off the island, they could not, even in broad daylight,

## THE CANARY ISLANDS. 49

light, shew him the proper place for landing; however, he anchored with his ships near Port de Naos, sent five or six hundred soldiers ashore, under the command of Sir John Berkeley, who pursued the natives for some time, but without being able to overtake them, they were so swift-footed; and when he came to the town, he found nothing left but a small quantity of cheese and wine, and whole reams of popish bulls and pardons. The castle or fort was abandoned, though it was so strong that twenty men could have defended it against five hundred. And now as the Marquis, who was the chief object of their descent, was nowhere to be found, the troops reembarked, after having sustained some loss by sickness, from drinking too plentifully of the wine which they found in the town.

DURING the war between England and Spain which began in the year 1739, an English privateer came into the bay of Las Playas, in Fuertaventura, and landed a considerable body of men, who marched into the island. But they had not proceeded far, when a multitude of the natives, chiefly armed with clubs and stones, attacked them with great fury, killed the greatest part of them, and made the rest prisoners, who were soon after sent to Tenerife. Six weeks after this, some other English privateers landed two or three hundred men at the same place, and marched inland with colours flying and drums beating. The natives, enraged to find the island disturbed again in so short a time, determined to give these second invaders no quarter; and so assembling together, fell upon them. The

English however received their attack with great bravery, and killed many of them; but finding it utterly impossible to defend themselves any longer against such numbers (the natives being twenty to one) threw down their arms and begged for quarter, but in vain, for the exasperated islanders inhumanly butchered every one of them.

IN all probability, the English must have been deceived in their notions of the number of inhabitants on the island; for it appears, when viewed from the sea, to be uninhabited and desolate.

IN the late war with Spain, two privateers, called the Lord Anson and Hawke, sailed on a cruise among the Azores and Canary Islands. The Hawke being near Porto de Naos, in Lancerota, and seeing some vessels lying in the port, she attempted to get at them, but could not, for nobody on board knew the passages through the rocks to the harbour. Some time after she was joined by her consort, the Lord Anson, when they jointly attacked the castle, and silenced its guns. But not finding the entrance of the harbour, they went about a league to the leeward, where they landed an hundred men. The natives assembled to the number of about five hundred, and came down to the sea-side to attack them, placing a number of camels in the front, to serve as a breast-work against the enemy's fire; but this did them no service, for the seamen soon broke the camels, and turned them upon their masters; who, seeing the resolution of the invaders, began to fly in great disorder, and left many of their cloaks behind, and about  
five



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five or six men dead on the spot. The seamen, on this occasion, behaved with great prudence, for they would not pursue the fugitives inland, but marched along-shore to Porto de Naos, their boats keeping close by them, to which they might retreat at pleasure. In their march they were frequently fired upon by the natives, who skulked behind the rocks; but by sending out small parties of five or six men each, they were soon dislodged, and obliged to fly. When the privateer's people came to Porto de Naos, they found the place deserted, and every thing of value carried off. And as the vessels which the Hawke wanted to cut out, had made their escape before she was joined by the Lord Anson, the men embarked, without attempting any thing against the castle. This latter fired several shot at the ships, but was quickly silenced by their great guns. In this expedition the English lost only one man, which was the Captain of the Lord Anson, who was killed on board his own ship by a shot from the castle.

ALTHOUGH these islands are little esteemed by the Spanish government, yet in fact they are of the utmost value; for if they were once subdued by any other nation, Palma and Tenerife would fall of course, because they are supplied with corn from Lancerota and Fuertaventura. Besides, the ports in Lancerota would always be convenient retreats for the cruising ships of an enemy, where they might careen, and be supplied with provisions.

THE exports from hence are confined wholly to the other islands: these are wheat, barley,

ley, maize, cattle, fowls, cheese, orchilla-weed, and goats skins, salt and some salt-fish; the two last are only exported from Lancerota. The wheat here is small-grained, but very hard, clear, and good: it sells always in Tenerife at a higher price than either English or other European wheat, by one fifth. The first wheat sown in this island was brought thither by Diego de Herrera, from Barbary. About eight years ago, they exported a number of camels from Fuertaventura to Jamaica and other parts of the English West Indies. But so soon as it was known at Canaria and Tenerife, that English ships came to Fuertaventura and carried away camels, the General and Royal Audience prohibited that trade, for fear of losing the breed, and raising the price of those animals.

THE asses brought to Fuertaventura increased so fast, that they ran wild among the mountains, and did so much damage to the natives, by eating their corn and other grain, that, in the year 1591, they were obliged to assemble all the inhabitants and dogs in the island, to endeavour to destroy them; accordingly they killed no less than fifteen hundred. Since that time there has not been any more in the island, than sufficient to supply the inhabitants.

THE exportation of corn is most impolitically prohibited from this island to any place, except the rest of the islands; by which means in a year of great plenty, it becomes of so little value, as scarcely to pay for the expence of cutting it down. This consequently makes them indifferent about raising more than what they

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they can consume themselves, or sell in the other islands; so that in a bad year, the islanders starve for want, especially the inhabitants of Tenerife, if they have not the good fortune to be supplied from Europe.

THE imports here are almost all from the other islands, especially from Tenerife, which is the centre of trade for all the Canary Islands. They consist in English woollen goods and German linens, both of the coarsest fabrics; brandy, wine, oil, fruit, planks and other sorts of timber, barks and fishing-boats, bees wax, household furniture, tobacco and snuff, soap, candles, and a considerable quantity of cash, which they receive in the ballance of trade; part of which goes in payment of rent to the proprietors of the lands; and the rest to Gran Canaria, to support the charge of their law-suits; for the natives of all the Canary Islands are generally extremely litigious.

No ship goes immediately from Europe to those islands, because the consumption of European commodities in them is so slow and inconsiderable, that it would not be worth while. With proper management, a ship of any nation in Europe, at war with Spain, might touch at Lancerota and Fuertaventura, pass for a neutral vessel, and be supplied with provisions; for the natives have no intercourse with foreigners, therefore they cannot distinguish an Englishman from a Hollander, Dane, or Swede; but whoever would pass for a Frenchman, must go to mass, otherwise he will be discovered.

## C H A P. VI.

*Of the Island of Gran Canaria.*

**H**ITHERTO I have been describing the islands that are almost deserts when compared with the fertile and pleasant one of Canaria, which, for the excellent temperature of its air, and the plenty of good water, trees, herbs, and delicious fruits that are found thereon, well deserves the name of the Fortunate Island.

THE north-east point of Canaria lies west from the south-west end of Fuertaventura, eighteen leagues distance: in clear weather, any of those islands may be easily seen from the other. Canaria is about fourteen leagues in length, nine in breadth, and thirty-five in circumference, reckoning the length from the north-east point southward unto the point Arganeguin, and the breadth from the port of Agaete, on the west side of the island, to that of Gando, on the east. The inland part, or centre, is exceeding high, and full of lofty mountains, which tower so far above the clouds, as to stop the current of the north-east wind that generally blows here; so that when this wind blows hard on the north side of the mountains, it is either quite calm on the other side, or a gentle breeze blows upon it from the south-west. These calms and eddy-winds,

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winds, occasioned by the height of the mountains above the atmosphere, extend twenty or twenty-five leagues beyond them, to the south-west. There are calms beyond or to the leeward of some of the rest of the islands as well as Canaria; for those of Tenerife extend fifteen leagues into the ocean; the calms off Gomera, ten; and those off Palma, thirty. I have been frequently in all the calms of the islands, excepting those of Palma; and from my experience of them, I may venture to say, that it is extremely dangerous for small vessels, or open boats to venture within them, when the wind blows hard without. It is true, indeed, the wind raises the waves of the sea to a mountainous height; yet those waves follow each other in a regular succession; for were they to fall confusedly one against another, no ship would be able to sail on the ocean. But in a storm, the wind driving the sea before it, each wave gives place to the one which follows; whereas in the calms of the Canary Islands, the sea not moving forward in the same direction with the sea without, but being as it were stagnate, or at rest, resists the waves that fall in upon it from without; and this resistance causes them to break just in the same manner as the billows break upon the sea-shore, but with less violence on account of the different nature of the resistance. This breaking of the waves is only on the verge of, or just entering into the calms, for within them the water is smooth and pleasant.

UPON first coming into the calms, the waves may be seen foaming and boiling like a pot, and breaking in all directions. When a vessel

comes amongst them, she is shaken and beaten by the waves on all sides, in such a manner that one would imagine she could not withstand it; however, this confusion does not last long. The best way to manage a ship entering the calms, is immediately to haul up the courses, and diligently attend the braces, to catch every puff of wind that offers, in order to push the ship into them as soon as possible. The crew must not think it strange, to be obliged to brace about the yards every two or three minutes, according as the wind veers and hauls; but after a ship is once fairly entered the calms, she will either find a dead calm and smooth water, or a pleasant and constant breeze at south or south-west, according as the wind blows without, to which this eddy-wind, as I may call it, always blows in an opposite direction.

ON the north-east end of Canaria is a peninsula, about two leagues in circumference. The isthmus by which it is connected with the main island, is about two miles in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth at the narrowest part. On each side of this isthmus is a bay, which is exposed on the north-west side to the swell of the sea, and therefore an unfit road for shipping; but small barks get in between a ledge of rocks and the shore, and lie there smooth and secure from all winds and weather. Here the natives of the island repair their small vessels.

ON the other side of the isthmus is a spacious sandy bay, called by some Porto de Luz, and by others Porto de Isletes, from some steep rocks, or islands, at the entrance of the bay



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bay towards the north-east. This is a good road for shipping of any burthen, with all winds except the south-east, to which it is exposed ; but that wind (which is not common here) seldom blows so hard as to endanger shipping.

THE landing-place is in the very bight or bottom of the bay, where the water is generally so smooth, that a boat may lie broadside to the shore, without danger. At this landing-place stands a hermitage, or chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, and a castle, mounted with a few guns, but of no strength. From thence along shore to the eastward, at the distance of a league, is the city of Palmas, the capital of the island: between which, and the above-mentioned castle are two other forts, mounted with guns ; these have no garrisons, except a few invalids. At the other end of the city is another castle called St. Pedro. None of all these are of any strength.

SHIPPING that discharge their cargoes at Palmas, generally in good weather anchor within half a mile of the town, for the quicker dispatch ; but that place is not a good road. The city of Palmas is of no strength to oppose an attack ; but it is large, and contains several fine buildings, particularly the cathedral of St. Anne, with many churches, convents of Friars of all orders, and nunneries. The private houses here are in general good, being all built of stone. The city is divided into two parts, which have a communication with each other by a bridge, thrown over a small stream of water. The number of in-

habitants in Palmas I guess to be about six thousand.

THE next port of any consequence is Gando, situate on the south-east part of the island. I never was there, but am informed it is a good port for shipping, with all winds except the south. There you may be supplied with good water and other refreshments.

GAETE, or Agaete, on the north-west part of the island, is a port with a castle for its defence. It is frequented only by boats that carry provisions, &c. from thence to Santa Cruz in Tenerife. The country near it is well watered, and abounds with fruit-trees. From Gaete there is a high road to the city of Palmas.

THE whole coast of Canaria, excepting at these ports, is generally inaccessible to boats or vessels, by reason of the breaking of the sea upon it: even the leeward, or south-west part of the island is exposed to this inconvenience, although it is sheltered by the land from the swell of the trade-wind.

IT is the same on the shores of all the Canary Islands, especially at the full and change of the moon, excepting those of Lancerota and Fuertaventura. Yet even to leeward of the latter of these, the shore is seldom free from surf. I imagine it will be no easy matter to account properly for this phænomenon.

THERE are no inland cities, or large towns, in Canaria; but many villages, the chief of which are Galdar and Telde.

ALTHOUGH this island is high and mountainous, yet between the mountains, and near the sea-coast, there are many plains, and more level

level ground than in any of the Canary Islands to the westward of it.

## CHAP. VII.

*Of the Climate of Canaria, its Weather, Produce, &c.*

THE temperature of the air is no where more delightful than in the island of Canaria. The heat in summer seldom exceeds that which generally prevails in England in the months of July and August, and the coldest part of the winter is not sharper than with us about the end of May in a backward season. The same sort of winds blow here, at the same periods, as at Lancerota and Fuertaventura; but the northerly wind is not so strong, being only a gentle breeze that cools the air so as to render it agreeably temperate. The heavens here are seldom overcast, the sky being almost continually serene and free from storms and thunder. The only disagreeable weather is when the south-east winds come upon the island, from the great desert of Africa; but these rarely happen, and do not last long. They are very hot, dry, and stifling, and do much damage to the fruits of the earth by their pernicious quality, and also by bringing clouds of locusts, that devour every green thing where they alight. In the mountains, the weather is different from what  
I have

I have been describing; for there it is very cold in winter, and the tops of them are uninhabitable, by reason of the snow that falls there in that season, in great abundance.

To add to the excellent qualities of this climate, the air is exceeding wholesome, and the natives enjoy health and longevity beyond any people in the world. I have had opportunities of observing that when they go with Europeans to hot unhealthy climates, they are the first that fall sick and die.

THIS island is well watered, and abounds with wood of various kinds: almost every thing that is planted here, will thrive; and the pine, palm, wild-olive, laurel, poplar, elder, bressos (a sort of brush-wood), dragon-tree (that yields gum), lena nueffa, or lignum Rhodium, the aloes-shrub, Indian fig, or prickly pear, and tubayba, grow spontaneously and without cultivation. The latter is a shrub, whose branches have no leaves except at the extremities. When this shrub is slit with a knife, or beaten with a stick, it yields a glutinous substance, of a white colour. The euphorbium-shrub grows here to a large size, and in great plenty: I cannot imagine the reason why the natives do not extract the juice, and use it for the bottoms of their boats and vessels, instead of pitch; I am persuaded it would answer better, and be an effectual preservative against the worms. The tarrahala is a sort of yew, or wild-pine; the retama, a withered shrub without leaves, not unlike the branch of a vine, and some of it grows to the thickness of a man's wrist. There are many others besides these, which I cannot describe.

All

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All the large trees, except the palm, that are natural to the island, grow on the mountains near the clouds, which descending upon them towards the evening, furnish them with moisture.

As to fruit, here are the almond, walnut, chesnut, apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry, plum, mulberry, fig, banana, date, orange, lemon, citron, lime, pomegranate, and in short all the American and European fruits, except the anana, or pine-apple, of which I think there are none in these islands. Of grain they have wheat, barley, and maize or Indian corn; but peas, beans, and garravansas\* are scarce and dear: melons of different sorts, potatoes, batatas, yams, pompions, the best onions in the world, and many other kinds of roots are found in plenty here, and all good in their kind: cabbages and sallads are not wanting. In short, in all the Canary Islands westward of Fuertaventura, nature amply rewards the labourer for his toil in cultivating the ground.

ALTHOUGH there is more level and arable land in Canaria than in any of the islands to the westward of it, yet it bears no manner of proportion to the stony, rocky, and barren ground, for I imagine the first is to the last as one to seven. Yet if the peasants had such liberty and security for their property as those of England have, they could, by a little industry and expence, turn the course of many rivulets of water upon their barren grounds, and thereby render them very fruitful.

\* A kind of horse-beans, written generally Carravancas.

BUT

BUT the great check to industry in cultivating the lands here, is the imprudent conduct of their government, which prohibits the exportation of provisions in a plentiful season, and fixes a price upon them in the island. This last, though done with a good design, is a most pernicious practice, and tends directly to make a scarcity \*.

THE most fertile part of Canaria is the mountain of Doramas, situated about two leagues from the city of Palmas; it is shaded by groves of different kinds of fragrant trees, whose lofty boughs are so thickly interwoven, as to exclude the rays of the sun. The rills that water these shady groves, the whispering of the breeze among the trees, and the melody of the Canary-birds, form a most delightful concert. When a person is in one of these enchanting solitudes, he cannot fail of calling to remembrance the fine things the ancients have written of the Fortunate Islands.

\* When a famine happens in any country, and the poor starve for want of food, why should the proprietors of corn be robbed, by being compelled to sell their grain below its real value? For every commodity is just worth what it will fetch. Why do not the rich, in such a case (if they would be humane at their own cost) give money to the poor, to enable them to purchase it at the current price? Does the government in any country compel people, in a plentiful year, to buy more corn than they can consume, in order that the merchants, who have a great quantity on hand, may be no losers? Yet this is just as reasonable, as obliging the merchants or farmers to lower the price of their grain.



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IN contrast to this charming scene, the upper part of the island is totally barren and desolate, producing neither grass or shrub, except a few of the above-mentioned retamas; for it projects far above the clouds, and therefore receives neither dew or rain, but is exposed to a thin, dry, parching wind, that generally blows from the western quarter, in direct opposition to the trade-wind below, or under the clouds: in the night this westerly wind blows hard, but lulls in the day-time. In the winter-season the top of this island is inaccessible, being covered with snow.

THE prodigious quantity of calcined stones, ashes, and lava that cover the greatest part of all the Canary Islands, disfigure them much, and render the ground unpleasant. The volcanos from whence this matter proceeded, and which formerly burned, may be discerned in all quarters of this and the rest of the islands; as also the channels made by the fiery streams that flowed from them. Those are full of ashes, cinders, and pumice-stone of a heavier kind than that which we bring from Naples. I have not heard of any volcano burning in Canaria since the conquest. Certainly if ever the first inhabitants of those islands abandoned them, and went in quest of new habitations (as some maintain) it must be owing to the dread they had of those most terrible eruptions.

THE wine of Canaria is good, but has not such a body as that of Tenerife, and therefore not so fit for exportation; yet many pipes of it are annually sent to the Spanish West Indies.

THERE

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THERE is no oil made in this or the other islands, notwithstanding olives have been planted in Canaria. They grow indeed, and bear fruit, but not to so great perfection as in Spain, Barbary, and other countries. Much sugar was formerly made here, but the great demand for the wines and brandies of this island in the Spanish West Indies, stopped the culture of canes, the natives finding it more advantageous to vest the produce of their wines at the Havannah in sugar, than to raise it in their own country. Honey abounds in Canaria, which is good, but of a black-colour.

THE animals here are camels, horses, asses, a few mules, bullocks, sheep, goats, hogs, rabbits, fowls, turkeys, geese, ducks, partridges, crows, and Canary-birds, with some others of the same size.

CANARIA is sometimes pestered with locusts, which are brought thither by south-east winds from the desert, and devour every green thing wherever they alight; but seldom visit any of the Canary Islands, except this and Hierro, which are situated more southerly than the rest. A few years ago, such an immense quantity came to the south-east part of Canaria, that they covered the fourth part of the island, and did infinite damage.

LIZARDS abound in this and all the other islands; but we find no snakes, serpents, scorpions, or other venomous creatures, excepting the fore-mentioned spider of Lancerota, and a kind of viper peculiar to the island of Gomera; which, however, I cannot find, upon the strictest enquiry, to be at all hurtful.

## C H A P. VIII.

*Description of the Island of Tenerife.*

**P**OINT Anaga, or Nago, the north-east end of Tenerife, bears north-west, about sixteen leagues distant from the north-west part of Canaria; but from the said part of Canaria to the nearest part of Tenerife, the distance is not above twelve leagues. This island is almost triangular, the three sides being nearly equal, and each about twelve leagues in length. In the centre is the famous Pike of Tenerife, called by the ancient inhabitants Teyde, which name it still retains with the present natives, who call it El Pico de Teyde, i. e. the Pike of Teyde.

COMING in with the island, in clear weather, this Pike may be easily discerned at the distance of one hundred and twenty miles, and in sailing from it, at one hundred and fifty miles distance; it then appears like a thin blue vapour or smoke, very little darker than the sky. At a further distance the shade disappears, and is not distinguishable from the azure of the firmament. Before losing sight of this towering mountain, it seems a considerable height above the horizon, although by its distance, and the spherical figure of the earth, all the rest of the island (the upper part of which is exceeding high) is sunk beneath

neath the horizon; but in general in sailing towards Tenerife, when the trade-wind blows, the island appears as an haziness of the sky, or a cloud, till within the distance of five or six leagues, and then the points of the land are first conspicuous, and shew like land.

AT a small distance from the north-east point of the island, called Punto de Nago, are some high perpendicular rocks, and five or six leagues from thence, on the south-east side of the island, is the bay or harbour of Santa Cruz, the most frequented port of any in the Canary Islands: the best road for shipping here, is between the middle of the town and a fort or castle, about a mile to the northward of it. In all that space, ships anchor from a cable's length distance from the shore, in six, seven, and eight fathoms water, to half a mile, in twenty-five or thirty fathoms. When a ship lies any time in the road, it is necessary to buoy her cables, as the ground is in some places foul, and consequently they will be apt to rub and spoil. Here ships, if moored with good cables and anchors, may lie secure in all winds, although the bay is exposed and open to those which blow from the north-east, east, and south-east: however, it is not above once in the space of four or five years that they blow so hard as to cause any considerable damage.

SOME years ago, almost all the shipping in the road were driven on shore by one of these gales: some English ships were at that time in the bay, the crews of which prudently cut away their masts, and so rode out the storm safely. On that occasion some Spanish sea-  
men

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men there, publicly declared they saw the devil in the height of the storm very busy in assisting the heretics.

IN the middle of the town is a mole, built at a vast expence, for the convenience of landing. It runs to the northward, and the outermost part of it turns toward the shore. In mild weather goods are landed at a creek among the rocks, near the custom-house, at the distance of a stone's cast to the southward of the mole.

IN going from the mole into the town, there is a square fort on the left hand, named St. Philip's, which is the principal one in the bay: to the northward of it along shore, are some forts or batteries, mounted with guns; the most considerable of which is called Passo Alto. Near it is a steep rocky den, or valley, beginning at the sea-shore, and running a long way inland, which would render any attack of an enemy on that quarter extremely difficult. There is another fort along shore, to the northward of this.

AT the south end of the town are some batteries; and beyond them, close to the shore there is a fort called St. Juan. All the sea-shore, from thence to the southward, is generally inaccessible, being naturally fenced with rocks, on which the surf breaks almost continually. All these forts are mounted with cannon, and joined to each other by a thick stone wall, which begins near the rocky den, and continues, with little interruption, to fort St. Juan. This wall is only breast-high within, but higher without, facing the sea. The entry to the town from the sea is at the mole,  
where

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where there is an open passage between the wall and St. Philip's castle, which commands and guards this entry.

SANTA CRUZ is a large town, containing several churches, three convents of Friars, an hospital, and the best constructed private buildings of any of the Canary Islands: it is in fact the capital of them all, though the episcopal see and courts of judicature are in the city of Palmas in the island of Canaria; but the Governor-general of the islands resides always in Santa Cruz, where there is continually a great concourse of foreigners, as being the centre of the Canary trade with Europe and America.

THE number of inhabitants I imagine to be about six or seven thousand. The water they drink is conveyed in open wooden troughs, or spouts, into the town, from a spring situated beyond the above-mentioned den or valley. Besides these there are, in many houses of the town, pits of water, which serve very well for the purposes of cookery, &c. The town is not fortified on the land side, as no danger is apprehended from that quarter. All the country near Santa Cruz is dry, stony, and barren.

ABOUT four leagues to the southward of Santa Cruz, close to the sea, is a cave, with a church or chapel, called Our Lady of Candelaria, in which is an image of the Virgin Mary, held in as much reverence here, as the image of the great goddess Diana was at Ephesus; and this chapel is endowed with so many ornaments, that it is the richest place in all the seven islands.

AT



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AT a certain season of the year, almost all the inhabitants of the island go thither in pilgrimage. I have met troops of young girls on their way, singing as they went, in a very agreeable manner, the praises of the Virgin, and the miraculous deeds of the image. It would be in vain to endeavour to undeceive the natives here, with respect to the many incredible stories related concerning this image; for, from the priest to the meanest peasant, every one appears to be convinced of its efficacious mediation and intercession with heaven. I have heard some Canary seamen declare, that when they were returning from the Spanish West Indies, and in imminent danger of perishing in a hard gale of wind, they saw Our Lady of Candelaria, in the night-time, in the height of the storm, assisting them to reef and furl the sails, &c. And moreover they assured me, that when they came home to Tenerife, they were told that in the morning after the very night in which they were so miraculously assisted by the Virgin, she was seen in the church of Candelaria with her cloaths and hair wet with the spray of the sea that came upon her while employed in that friendly office.

THE account given of the first appearance of this image in the island, as related by the author of the Discovery and Conquest, and which perfectly agrees with what we are now told by the most intelligent of the natives, is as follows: “The exact time when this  
“image first came to the island is not known;  
“however, there is a confused rumour that it  
“was near an hundred years before the con-  
“quest:

“ quest: according to the accounts of the oldest  
 “ inhabitants, it was about the year 1390.  
 “ Close to the sea-shore, near the mouth of  
 “ a barranco or den, in a desert part of the  
 “ island, four leagues distant from the city of  
 “ St. Christobal de la Laguna, two shepherds  
 “ driving their flocks towards a cave on the  
 “ other side of the den, in order to milk  
 “ them as usual, they observed the goats to  
 “ stop and turn back affrighted. The shep-  
 “ herds immediately hollowed and whistled,  
 “ in order to make them go forward, but in  
 “ vain, for the goats turned out of the way  
 “ and ran back; whereupon one of the shep-  
 “ herds, suspecting that some one was lying  
 “ in wait, in order to steal some of the flock,  
 “ stepped forward to see what was the matter,  
 “ where he was surprised to behold the holy  
 “ image standing upon a great stone at the  
 “ mouth of the den. Drawing nearer, he  
 “ viewed it with fear and admiration, not be-  
 “ ing accustomed to see any one in such a  
 “ strange and uncommon dress. However,  
 “ at last he dismissed his fears, and conclud-  
 “ ing it was a woman, he made signs to her  
 “ to get out of the way, that the flocks might  
 “ pass: and this he did because it was not  
 “ customary in Tenerife for a man when he  
 “ met a woman alone on the road, or in a  
 “ solitary place, to speak to her, but on the  
 “ contrary to turn aside. As the flocks could  
 “ not go to the cave without first passing the  
 “ mouth of the den, therefore he made signs  
 “ to her; but finding she never moved,  
 “ though he waited some time, he was pro-  
 “ voked at her indecent and obstinate behavi-  
 “ our,

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“ our, and took up a stone to throw at her,  
 “ but could not cast it out of his hand, and  
 “ his arm, which was lifted up to throw the  
 “ stone, continued immoveable in that posture,  
 “ and with great pain to him.

“ THE other shepherd, seeing what passed,  
 “ went boldly up to the image, examined it,  
 “ and with a *tavona*, or sharp flint, endeavoured  
 “ to cut off its hand; but instead of effecting this,  
 “ in the attempt he cut his own hand in such a manner,  
 “ that a stream of blood gushed out. Blinded with wrath  
 “ against the image for what had befallen him,  
 “ he made another attempt to cut off its hand,  
 “ but in vain, for instead of executing his purpose,  
 “ he cut his own hand a second time; so that the  
 “ shepherds remained, the one with his arm stretched  
 “ out, and the other sorely wounded. They concluded  
 “ at last, that the image came from Heaven; and  
 “ going to the King of Guimar, informed him of  
 “ what had happened: who, when he saw them standing  
 “ before him in that condition, believed what they  
 “ had related, and ordered the council to assemble at  
 “ the *Tagoror*, or Place of Judgment. The result of  
 “ that council was, that the King and all the members  
 “ went, with the whole people of the district of  
 “ Guimar, to the place where the shepherds saw  
 “ the image. There they found it still remaining in  
 “ the same posture: the Guanches were greatly struck  
 “ with admiration and reverence, when they beheld  
 “ the gravity and majesty of its appearance; but no  
 “ one dared to touch it, for  
 “ fear

“ fear of being punished after the same manner as the two shepherds were.

“ THE King at last ordered these two men to approach the image with reverence, and carry it to his house. They took hold of it accordingly, and immediately upon touching it, were intirely healed, to the no small astonishment of the spectators.

“ THE King being now convinced that the image was sent from Heaven, declared it was too sacred to be carried by peasants, and therefore went himself, with some of his nobles, and taking it up with fear and reverence, they carried it in this manner about the distance of a musquet shot, when it became so exceeding heavy, that they could proceed with it no further. When the King and his attendants perceived this, they fell on their knees before the image, humbly beseeching it to let them place it where they intended; upon which it made a sign, and they lifted it up again, finding it quite light, and proceeded to a cave, which was the King's store-room or pantry, and is about half a league distant from the barranco where the image first appeared. Having brought it thither, they placed it on some goats skins, where it remained, and performed many wonderful miracles, as it still continues to do. On the spot where the image made a sign for the natives to go on, the Christians have built an hermitage, called Nuestra Senora del Soccoro, i. e. Our Lady of Succour.

“ THE

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“ THE Guanches \* relate, that by means  
“ of this holy image, many miracles were  
“ wrought in the time of paganism, before  
“ the conquest: and the Kings of the island  
“ set apart a man and a woman to look after  
“ the image, and keep it clean. The natives  
“ never approached it without a present of  
“ some sheep, the number of which increas-  
“ ed prodigiously: they were called the sacred  
“ sheep; and no one was allowed to approach  
“ them, but the above-mentioned man and  
“ woman.

“ EVERY year, on the Eve of the Purifi-  
“ cation of Our Lady, a great number of  
“ lights are seen going in procession round  
“ the cave where this image is; and in the  
“ morning, drops of wax are found scattered  
“ about on the sea-shore.

“ THE Christians, from this miraculous  
“ appearance, intitled the image Our Lady  
“ of Candelaria; and also because she holds a  
“ green candle in one hand; in the other she  
“ has an infant Jesus, holding a gilded bird in  
“ each hand, which can be no other than the  
“ doves of the purification of our blessed Lady  
“ the Virgin.

“ THIS image of the Virgin Mary in Can-  
“ delaria is but small, being about two cubits,  
“ or three feet in height; the colour of the

\* In my author's time, many of the Guanches were known in distinction from the Spaniards; but they are now confounded together, excepting a few families about Candelaria, Guimar, and Chazna. On great festivals, some of those families claim the sole privilege of dressing and adorning the image of the Virgin of Candelaria.

“ face is swarthy, the garments blue and gold \*. On them are certain Roman characters, which no one could explain, until Gonzalo Argote de Molina, Provincial of the Holy Brotherhood of Andalusia, gave us the following interpretation :

“ ON the vestment near the neck, are the following twelve letters ; T, I, E, P, F, S, E, P, M, E, R, I, with a rose of four leaves betwixt each. He makes them to be initials of the following words, Tu Illustra Es Patri Filio Spiritui sancto Et Pia Mater Ejus Redemptoris Jesu †.

“ ON the girdle ; N, A, R, M, P, R, L, M, O, T, A, R, E. Which seem to be initials of Nostrum Altissimum Regem Maria Peperit Redidit Libertatem Maria Omnibus Testis A Regi Erebi ‡.

“ AND on the border of the sleeve, near the green candle, are these four letters, L, P, V, R ; which he interprets after this manner, Lucem Perpetuam, Vobis Reddidi §.

“ ON the tail of the garment are these fourteen letters, I, N, N, I, P, E, P, N, E, I, F, A, N, T : which, according to his ex-

\* I suppose the garment is of the same substance with the image ; but my author is silent in this matter.

† Thou art illustrious (or glorious) in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and Mother of the Redeemer, Jesus.

‡ Mary brought forth our most high King, she gave liberty to all those imprisoned by the king of hell.

§ I have given to you the eternal life.

“ planation,



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“ planation, are initials of these words, Ista  
 “ Nequaquam Nivariæ In Perpetuus Effugiet  
 “ Pio Nomine Evocato Insulæ Fortunatæ Ad-  
 “ versarius Nullum \*.”

THE reason of my being so particular in describing this image, is to afford light to some curious and learned person, by which he may form some judgment of its antiquity.

SOUTHWARD from Candelaria is Point Prieta, the south-west point of the island; from thence the coast tends westward to la Montana Roxo (i. e. the Red Mountain); and from thence north-north-west to Point Teno, the north-west point of the island. All this coast is barren, and almost uninhabited, except about half way between Montana Roxo and Point Teno, or rather nearer to Teno, is the bay of Adexe, or, as it is pronounced, Adehe; where large ships may anchor. I never was in it, but am informed that it is open to the south-west, and but little frequented, except by boats from the island of Gomera, which lies over-against it. Near Adehe the Count of Gomera has a house and some lands, on which he keeps a thousand negro slaves, for planting of sugar-canes and preparing sugar. It is hard to know his motive for maintaining those negroes in a country that abounds with poor labouring white people, who, with all their industry, can hardly earn enough to buy food sufficient to keep soul and body together. Was he to sell all those slaves

\* This will never leave Nivaria: its pious name invoked, the Fortunate Islands shall fear no adversary.

in the Spanish West Indies, I am certain the annual interest of the nett produce of the sale would bring him in more than the present clear income of all his sugar-works and estates in Tenerife, Gomera, and Hierro; for, as I am credibly informed, it amounts to no more than fifteen hundred pounds per annum. The only reason I can assign for such strange mismanagement, is a certain low pride he has in being lord of a thousand slaves.

IN the neighbourhood of this port there are some mountains that are covered with stately pines, and are very easy of access; for this reason the inhabitants of Gomera generally come hither for the wood which they use in building, the woods of their own island being more difficult of access.

BETWEEN Adehe and Point Teno the shore is about half a mile in height, and perpendicular as a wall. Several streams fall down from the summit into the sea.

POINT Teno runs a considerable way into the sea, in the form of a crescent: behind it, to the southward, the sea is very smooth, when the trade-wind prevails, which, in blowing weather, makes a great sea to the northward of the point. I never was at an anchor there, but have passed near it several times, and by what then I had an opportunity to observe, I judge it to be a convenient port.

FROM Teno the land stretches away east-north-east and north-east-by-east, to Point Nago, the north-east end of the island, from whence he set out. This side of Tenerife has quite a different aspect from the other two already described; for in viewing it from the sea,

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sea, we perceive a number of villages, woods, vineyards, and corn-fields, that make a most agreeable appearance.

ALONG shore, to the north-east of Teno, is the village of St. Iago; and three leagues, in the same direction, from that point, is the village of Buenavista, situated among the vineyards, near the sea; but we meet with no port until we advance above two leagues further, where there is a haven called Garrachica, formerly the best port in the island, being then a bay in the form of a horse-shoe, but was destroyed in the year of the earthquakes (for so the natives termed the year 1704), and filled up by the rivers of burning lava that flowed into it from a volcano; inasmuch that houses are now built where ships formerly lay at anchor; yet vessels come to Garrachica in the summer, and lie secure with the trade-wind, which at that season commonly blows there at east-north-east. Some time after the year of earthquakes the following account of them was written, and which is recorded in several descriptions of the Canary Islands.

“ In the year 1704, there happened the  
 “ most alarming instance of this kind that had  
 “ ever been known. The earthquake began  
 “ the 24th of December, and, in the space of  
 “ three hours, twenty-nine shocks were felt.  
 “ After this they became so violent as to rock  
 “ all the houses on their foundations, and oblige the inhabitants to abandon them. The  
 “ consternation became universal, and the  
 “ people, headed by the Bishop, made processions and public prayers in the open fields.  
 “ On the 31st, a great light was observed on

“ Manja, towards the White Mountains.  
“ Here the earth opened, and two volcanos  
“ were formed, which threw up such heaps  
“ of stones, as to raise two considerable moun-  
“ tains; and the combustible matter which  
“ still continued to be thrown up, kindled a-  
“ bove fifty fires in the neighbourhood. In  
“ this situation things remained till the 5th of  
“ January, when the sun was totally obscured  
“ by the clouds of smoke and flame, which  
“ continually increased, and augmented the  
“ consternation and terror of the inhabitants.  
“ Before night, the whole country, for three  
“ leagues round, was laid in flames by the  
“ flowing of liquid fire, with the rapidity of  
“ a torrent, into all quarters, and caused by  
“ another volcano, which had opened by at  
“ least thirty different vents within the circum-  
“ ference of half a mile, towards Oratava.  
“ What greatly increased the horror of the  
“ scene, was the violence of the shocks, which  
“ never once remitted, but by their force to-  
“ tally overthrew several houses, and shook  
“ others to their very foundations, while the  
“ miserable inhabitants were driven defence-  
“ less and dismayed into the open fields, where  
“ they expected every moment to be swallow-  
“ ed up by some new gulph. The noise of  
“ the volcano was heard twenty leagues off  
“ at sea; and it is credibly attested that the  
“ sea shook at that distance with such violence  
“ as alarmed the mariners, who imagined the  
“ ship had struck upon a rock, till the con-  
“ tinuance of the motion gave them the first  
“ intimation of the real cause. A torrent of  
“ sulphur, and melted ores of different kinds,  
“ rushed

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“ rushed forth from this last volcano, towards  
 “ Guimar; the houses and public buildings  
 “ of which place were thrown down by the  
 “ violence of the accompanying earthquake.  
 “ On the 2d of February another volcano  
 “ broke out in the town of Guimar, which  
 “ swallowed up and entirely annihilated a  
 “ large church. Thus, from the 24th of  
 “ December to the 23d of February, the in-  
 “ habitants were kept in constant alarms by  
 “ continued shocks of earthquakes, and by  
 “ terrible volcanos breaking out in different  
 “ quarters of the island.”

GARRACHICA is still a town of note, and pretty large, containing several churches and convents of both sexes. It has a small trade for wines and brandy, which are generally sent from hence in barks, or large open boats, to Santa Cruz or Port Orotava. Several vessels are built here, some of three hundred tons burthen and upwards, which are strong and durable.

Two leagues to the eastward of Garrachica stands a town called the Port of Orotava, the situation of which is erroneously laid down in all our sea-charts, which place it three or four leagues nearer to Point Nago than it really is.

THE marks by which a stranger may find Port Orotava are these: it lies about half way between Teno and Point Nago, but rather nearer to the latter, and close in to the sea shore. Above it, about a league inland, is another town, somewhat larger, called Villa de Orotava; between these are two small hills, shaped like sugar-loaves. No boat will go

from hence to a ship in the offing until she approaches within a mile of the shore, when the pratique-boat puts a pilot on board, who brings her into the road, which is about a mile to the westward of the town, where shipping lie moored in forty or fifty fathom water. This is a good port in the summer-season, or from the beginning of May to the end of October; but in the winter, ships are often obliged to slip their cables and put to sea, for fear of being surpris'd by a north-west wind, which throws in a heavy sea upon this coast. But these winds rarely happen, and commonly give warning before-hand, so that ships have time to get away. The pilot that boards a ship on her arrival, remains there until she departs. These pilots are very careful to slip and put to sea, when they apprehend any danger. It is commonly calm in this road; but there is almost always a long northerly swell, that causes ships to roll very much, so that one would be apt to imagine it almost impossible to load a cargo there.

THE landing-place is near to the middle of the town, where is a small creek or haven among the rocks. There large boats load wines, &c. and carry them off to the ships in the road. Each of these boats generally carries fifteen or twenty hands, which hoist the wines aboard, and flow them away with amazing quickness and dexterity, even when a ship rolls from gunwale to gunwale, which is often the case in this road.

PORT Orotava is a place of considerable trade, and has flourished greatly since the destruction of the harbour of Garrachica: it

con-



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contains some good private buildings, two churches, two convents of Friars, and two of Nuns. At each end of the town is a black sandy bay; along the northermost is a low stone wall, built to prevent an enemy from landing: at the other bay is a small fort or castle, for the same purpose; and between them, at the landing-place, a battery of a few cannon. But the surf that continually breaks upon the shore, is a better defence than if it were garrisoned by ten thousand of the best troops.

PORT Orotava is plentifully supplied with good water, which is conveyed to it, from a rivulet at a great distance, in open wooden spouts or troughs. About half way from Port Orotava to Point Nago, is a point of land, and behind, or to leeward of it, a small bay or anchoring-place, called Puerto de Madera. Between which and Orotava are some landing-places of less note, lying behind points, where boats load wine for Port Orotava or Santa Cruz: but from Puerta de Madera to Point Nago the shore is high, rocky, and steep, consequently inaccessible. Having now described the sea-coast of the island, I shall proceed to give an account of the inland parts.

ABOUT four miles inland from Santa Cruz, stands the city of St. Christobal de la Laguna, i. e. St. Christopher of the Lake. The road to it from Santa Cruz is a pretty steep ascent, till you come within a small distance of the town, which is situated in the corner of a large plain, about four miles in length, and about a mile in breadth. This city is the capital of the island, and contains two parish

churches, three convents of Friars, two of Nuns, and three hospitals, two of which are for the venereal disease, and the other for foundlings; with many handsome private buildings: the convents of Friars are of three different orders, viz. the Augustine, the Dominican, and the Franciscan; and those of the Nuns, Dominicans of St. Catherine and Franciscans of St. Clara. The Jesuits have a house here, where only two of that order reside, having found little or no encouragement for more in the place. The water which the inhabitants drink, is conveyed in troughs or spouts to the town, from the mountains situated to the southward of the plain.

IN this city there is no trade, nor any shew of business, it being chiefly inhabited by the gentry of the island, particularly the officers of justice, such as the Corregidor and his Tinenté or Lieutenant; the Regidores or Cavildo; with the Judge of the Indies, who presides in the India-house, where all matters relating to the West India commerce are managed: here is also an Office of Inquisition, with its proper officers, subject to the Tribunal of the Holy Office at Gran Canaria. Notwithstanding all those people reside here, the city appears to a stranger passing through it, as desolate and almost uninhabited; for he can hardly see any body in the streets, in the most frequented of which he may observe grass growing. A person who has been in Holland, and compares St. Christobal de la Laguna with Santa Cruz, will naturally think of the difference between the appearance of Delft and Amsterdam.

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At the south side of the city, or rather behind it, is a laguna (i. e. a lake) about half a mile in circumference, from which the city takes its name, which is dry in the summer-season, but in the winter full of stagnant water. This city, situated on a plain, and elevated a great height above the sea, is extremely cold in winter, and exposed to the wind in all seasons. When the trade-wind blows fresh at north-north-east and north-east in the bay of Santa Cruz, the north-west wind prevails here, and blows generally with great vehemence. The inhabitants of Laguna have planted an avenue of trees on the brow of the hill, or extremity of the plain, just where the road descends to Santa Cruz; but, by the violence of the wind, they are all bent to the south-east, and stripped of their leaves: they were obliged to build circular walls around each of them when they were planted, to secure them from the wind, until they were strong enough to resist its force.

From the western extremity of the plain of Laguna the road descends to la Mantanza de Centejo, a large village, chiefly inhabited by peasants: it is in the midway between Santa Cruz and Port Orotava. From thence to la Villa de Orotava, the country abounds with habitations; for on the right hand are the large villages or rather towns of Tacoronte, Sausal, and la Rambla, besides many small villages and detached houses. La Villa de Orotava, about three leagues inland from Port Orotava, is a large place, and contains several churches, convents of Friars and Nuns, with a number of stately private buildings of stone. A rivulet  
runs

runs through the midst of the town, which supplies the inhabitants with water, and refreshes their gardens and orchards. This place appeared to me to be about as large again as Port Orotava. Continuing the same route to the westward, the next town is Realejo; being a large place, situated about a league or four miles beyond la Villa de Orotava, and surrounded with vineyards. All these places are populous, and situated a little way from the sea, from whence most of them may be seen; and indeed no habitations here are at a greater distance from it than three leagues. The whole island continues rising on all sides from the sea, till it terminates in the Pike, which is the centre. The north side is the most fertile, and ascends more gradually than the others, particularly a space along the shore about three leagues in breadth, bounded on the sides by high mountains, or rather cliffs; but inland, or upwards from the sea, it rises like a hanging garden all the way, without any considerable interruption of hills or valleys, till you come within a league of the clouds. In the western border of this space is situated Realejo; and on the eastern, La Rambla. Between them are the towns of Orotava and Port Orotava, with a number of detached habitations scattered about from the sea-shore upwards to the clouds, in or beyond which are no houses or habitations; yet the clouds are not higher than the middle distance between the sea and the summit of the Pike. All the fertile ground, within a league of the sea, is covered with vines; that of the next league produces corn; and the third, some corn,  
woods

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woods of chesnut-trees, and many other different sorts, particularly bresos, which are used by the natives for fuel. Above these woods are the clouds, which, in fine weather, toward the evening generally descend gradually and rest upon those woods until the morning, when they reascend about a league, and there remain until the succeeding evening. In that height of the island where they rest in the day-time, there was formerly a great quantity of stately pine-trees; but being easy to come at, they were almost all cut down by the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, so that few now remain in this part which I am describing; but in other places of the island in the same altitude, and which are distant from any habitations, there are great numbers of them. From Orotava, ascending to the summit of the island, leaving the Pike \* on the right hand, and then descending to the south-west, we come to the town of Chazna, called by some Villa Flor, where there is a convent of Friars; near it is a well of an acid water, which has a medicinal quality, and is reckoned an efficacious remedy for many disorders, but pernicious and fatal to those who drink it when troubled with the venereal disease. On the south-east of the island, inland from Candelaria, is the town of Guimar, a considerable place, but, like Chazna, remote from other habitations: both these towns have some families living in them, who know themselves to be the genuine offspring of the Guanches.

\* I do not consider the Pike as the top of the island, but rather as a hill or mountain upon it.

I have

I have seen and conversed with some of these people, but they could not gratify my curiosity in any thing concerning the manners and customs of their ancestors, whose language they have entirely lost. They appeared to me to be of a fairer complexion than the Spaniards of the province of Andalusia. Above or inland from Garrachica, is Ico, a large and populous town, abounding with wealthy people: here are some manufactures of silk, particularly stockings, which are exported to the Spanish West Indies. Besides those places already described, are many small villages, particularly westward from Realejo, towards Ico and Buenavista; also in the mountains, between the city of Laguna and Point Nago, are many pleasant romantic little valleys and hollows, well watered, and abounding with shady groves: these are the most agreeable places in the island; but the gentry of Tenerife have no taste for country-houses or solitary retirements, chusing rather to live in towns. The inhabitants of those mountains are fairer than the other inhabitants of the island; probably they are the offspring of those fair people who lived on the north side of the island, of whom mention is made in the History of the Discovery and Conquest.

CONSIDERING the number of large and populous towns situated in Tenerife, with the villages, and detached habitations, it will be no surprize to understand that this island, when the last account was taken, contained no less than ninety-six thousand persons. Indeed it is computed to contain as many inhabitants as all the rest of the seven islands together. I  
never



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never heard the number of any of them calculated, but Tenerife, Palma, and Hierro: the second of these is said to have thirty thousand inhabitants, and the last one thousand; these added, fall short of the number in Tenerife by sixty-five thousand, which, according to the above-mentioned computation, remains to be divided among the islands Lance-  
rota, Fuertaventura, Gran Canaria, and Gomera. I suppose then, by what I have had opportunity of observing, that Fuertaventura may contain ten thousand persons; Lance-  
rota, eight thousand; Gomera, seven thousand; and Canaria, forty thousand.

BEFORE I leave the description of Tenerife, it will not be improper to give some account of the Pike, so much taken notice of by all who have had occasion to pass near it and observe its prodigious height.

## CHAP.

## C H A P. V.

*Of the Pike of Tenerife.*

**I**N the beginning of the month of September, 1761, about four o'clock in the afternoon, I set out on horseback, in company with a Master of a ship, from Port Orotava, to visit the Pike. We had with us a servant, a muleteer, and a guide: after ascending about six miles, we arrived, towards sun-set, at the most distant habitation from the sea this way, which was in a hollow. Here we found an aqueduct of open troughs or spouts, that conveys water down from the head of the hollow. Here our servants watered the cattle, and filled some small barrels with water, to serve us on our expedition. While they were thus employed, we alighted and walked into the hollow, which we found to be very pleasant, abounding with many trees that sent forth an odoriferous smell. Near the houses are some fields of maize or Indian corn: in several places on this side of the island, the natives have two crops of this grain. Mounting again, we travelled for some time on a steep road, and got into the woods and the clouds just as it grew dark; we could not well miss our way, the road being bounded on both sides with trees or bushes, which were chiefly laurel, savine, and bresos or brushwood: having travelled about

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bout a mile, we came to the upper edge of the wood above the clouds, where we alighted, made a fire, and supped; some time after we lay down to sleep under the bushes. About half an hour after ten, the moon shining bright, we mounted again, and travelled slowly two hours, through an excessive bad road, resembling ruins of stone buildings scattered over the fields. After we got out of this road, we came upon small light white pumice-stone like peas or shingle. Here we road at a pretty good pace for near an hour. The air now began to be very sharp, cold, and piercing, and the wind blew strong about south-west or west-south-west. Our guide advised us to alight here, as it was a convenient place, and rest till four or five in the morning. We followed his counsel, and entered into a cave, the mouth of which was built up to about a man's height, to prevent the wind and cold from getting in. Near this place we were so lucky as to find some dry withered retamas, which was the only shrub or vegetable we saw hereabout; with these we made a great fire to warm ourselves, and then fell asleep, but were soon awaked by an itching of the skin, which we imagined proceeded from fleas, but was owing to the cold thin air, want of rest, and sleeping in our cloaths; a thing I have known to happen to people on such expeditions. We passed away the time here as well as we could; but while we crept so near the fire, that one side was almost scorched, the other was benumbed with cold.

ABOUT five in the morning we mounted again, and travelled slowly about a mile, for the

the road here was rather too steep for travelling on horseback, and our horses were now fatigued. At last we came among some great loose rocks, where was a sort of cottage built of loose stones: the name of this place our guide told us was Estancia de los Ingleses (i. e. the English pitching place), so called, I imagine, from some English people resting there on their way to visit the Pike, for none go that journey but foreigners, and some poor people of the island, who earn their bread by gathering brimstone; the Spanish gentry having no curiosity of this kind. Here we alighted again, the remainder of our way being too steep for riding, and left one of our servants to look after the cattle, and then proceeded on our journey afoot. We walked hard to get ourselves a heat, but were soon fatigued by the steepness of the road, which was also loose and sandy. When we got to the top of this rising or hill, we came to a vast number of loose great stones, whose surfaces were flat: each of those stones or rocks was, on a medium, about ten feet every way. This road was not so steep as the other, but we were obliged to travel a considerable way over the rocks, leaping from one to another, for they were not all quite close to each other. Among these is a cavern, where is a well, or natural reservoir, into which we descended by a ladder, which the poor people placed there for that purpose. This cavern is spacious within, being almost ten yards wide, and twenty in height: all the bottom of it, except just at the feet of the ladder, is covered with water, which is about two fathoms deep, and

and was then frozen towards the inner edges of the cave: we attempted to drink of this water, but could not, by reason of its excessive coldness; however, our guide filled a bottle, which he had purposely brought from the Estancia. After travelling about a quarter or half a mile upon the great stones or rocks, we came to the bottom of the real Pike, or sugar-loaf, which is very steep, and to add to the difficulty of ascending, the ground is loose and gives way under the feet, and consequently extremely fatiguing; for although the length of this eminence is not above half a mile; yet we were obliged to stop and take breath I believe thirty times; at last we got to the top, where we lay about a quarter of an hour to rest ourselves, being quite spent with fatigue. When we left the Estancia in the morning, the sun was just emerging from the clouds, which were spread out under us at a great distance downward, appearing like the ocean. Above the clouds, at a vast distance to the north, we saw something black, which we imagined to be the top of the island of Madeira. We took the bearings of it by a pocket compass, and found it to be exactly in the direction of that island from Tenerife: but before we got to the top of the Pike it disappeared. We saw from hence the tops of the islands Palma, Gomera, Hierro, and Gran Canaria; they seemed to be quite near, but we could neither perceive Lancerota or Fuertaventura, because they are not high enough to pierce the clouds. Unfortunately we did not find the air quite clear and free from clouds, otherwise I know not but we might have

have seen Madeira, Porto Santo, and even the nearest part of Mount Atlas, which is about an hundred leagues distant from hence; for although I said before, that viewing the Pike from the ocean, it could not be distinguished from the sky farther off than an hundred and fifty or an hundred and sixty miles; yet it must be observed that the air above the clouds is by far thinner, more pure, and freer from vapours than the air below; for before we came to the Estancia de los Ingleses, we observed the moon and stars to shine with uncommon brightness; besides, the spherical figure of the earth could not prevent our seeing Mount Atlas, because its summit and that of Tenerife, by reason of their immense height (although so far asunder) would yet be far exalted above the horizon. But whether or not vision extends so far as what I am now hinting, I leave to others to determine.

AFTER we had rested some time, we began to look about and observe the top of the Pike. Its dimensions seemed to be exactly as described by one Mr. Eden, whose journey to the Pike we find related in some of our accounts of the Canary Islands. He says the length is about an hundred and forty yards, the breadth an hundred and ten. It is hollow, and shaped within like a bell subverted. From the edges or upper part of this bell, or cauldron, as the natives call it, to the bottom is about forty yards. In many parts of this hollow, we observed smoke and steams of sulphur issuing forth in puffs. The heat of the ground in some particular places was so great, as to penetrate through the soles of our shoes to our feet:



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feet : seeing some spots of earth or soft clay, we tried the heat with our fingers, but could not thrust them in farther than half an inch, for the deeper we went, the more intense we found the heat. We then took our guide's staff, and thrust it to the depth of three inches into a hole or porous place, where the smoke seemed to be thickest, and held it there about a minute, and then drew it out, when we found it burned to charcoal. We gathered here many pieces of most curious and beautiful brimstone of all colours, particularly azure blue, green, violet, yellow, and scarlet. But what chiefly engaged the attention of my companion, was the extraordinary and uncommon appearance of the clouds below us, at a great distance ; they seemed like the ocean, only the surface of them was not quite so blue and smooth, but had the appearance of very white wool ; and where this cloudy ocean, as I may call it, touched the shore, it seemed to foam like billows breaking on the shore. When we ascended through the clouds, it was dark ; but when we mounted again, between ten and eleven, the moon shone bright, the clouds were then below us, and about a mile distant : we took them for the ocean, and wondered to see it so near ; nor did we discover our mistake until the sun arose. When we descended to the clouds, in returning from the Pike, and entered within them, they appeared to us as a thick fog or mist, of the consistence of those we frequently see in England : all the trees of the fore-mentioned woods, and our cloaths were wet with it.

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THE air on the top of the Pike was thin, cold, piercing, and of a dry parching nature, like the south-easterly winds which I have felt in the great desert of Africa, or the Levanters in the Mediterranean: or even not unlike those dry easterly winds which are frequent in the northern parts of Europe, in clear weather, in the months of March or April.

IN ascending the highest part of the mountain, called the sugar-loaf, which is very steep, our hearts panted and beat vehemently, so that as I observed before, we were obliged to rest above thirty times to take breath; but whether this was owing to the thinness of the air causing a difficulty of respiration, or to the uncommon fatigue which we suffered in climbing the hill, I cannot determine; but believe it was partly owing to the one, and partly to the other. Our guide, a slim, agile, old man, was not affected in the same manner with us, but climbed up with ease, like a goat; for he was one of those poor men who earn their living by gathering brimstone in the cauldron and other volcanos, the Pike itself being no other, though it has not burned for some years past, as may be plainly understood by the nature of its substance; and indeed all the top of the island shews evident marks of some terrible revolution that has happened in Tenerife; for the sugar-loaf is nothing else than earth mixed with ashes and calcined stones, thrown out of the bowels of the earth: and the great square stones, before described, seem to have been thrown out of the cauldron or hollow of the Pike, when it was a volcano. The top of the Pike is inaccessible in every way but

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but that by which we went up, viz. by the east side. Its steepest part is on the north-west, towards Garrachica. We tumbled some loose rocks down from that quarter, which rolled a vast way, till we lost sight of them.

HAVING surveyed every thing worthy of observation, we returned to the Estancia, where our horses were left; the whole time spent in descending from the top of the Pike to this place, was only half an hour, although the ascent took us up about two hours and a half. It was now about ten in the morning, and the sun shone so excessively hot, as to oblige us to take shelter in the cottage; being exceedingly fatigued, we lay down there, intending to sleep, but could not for the cold, which was so intense under the shade, that we were obliged to kindle a fire to keep ourselves warm.

AFTER taking some repose, we mounted our horses about noon, and descended by the same way that we went up, and came to some pines, situated about two miles above the clouds: between these pines and the Pike, grows no herb, shrub, tree, or grass, excepting the fore-mentioned retama. About five of the clock in the evening we arrived at Orotava, not having alighted by the way to stop, only sometimes to walk where the road was too steep for riding. The whole distance we rode in the five hours spent in coming down from the Estancia to Orotava, we computed to be about fifteen English miles, travelling at the rate of three miles an hour: suppose then we deduct five of these for windings and turnings, the distance from the sea to the Estancia,

tancia, in a strait line, will be about ten miles; which, if carefully compared with the ascent of the road \*, I reckon will make the perpendicular height of the Estancia to be about four English miles; to which add a mile of perpendicular height from thence to the Pike, the whole will be about five English miles: I am very certain I cannot be mistaken in this calculation above a mile either way. There is no place in the world more proper for an observatory than the Estancia: if a commodious warm house or cottage was built upon it, to accommodate astronomers while the moderate weather continues, viz. all July, August, and September, they might make their observations, take an account of the wind and weather of the region above the clouds, and remark their nature and properties. But if any person intends to visit the Pike, I would advise him to wait for fine clear weather, carry a good tent, plenty of water, and some provisions along with him, that he may be enabled to remain at the Estancia four or five days, in which time he might go twice or thrice to the top of the Pike, and make his observations at leisure.

\* I imagine that no one who has been at Orontava, will think twenty-two or twenty-three degrees too great an ascent from thence to the summit of the island; for so many have I allowed in calculating the perpendicular height.

## C H A P. X.

*Of the Weather of Tenerife; and its Produce.*

THE weather in Tenerife is not different from that in Canaria, already described; but there is something particular here with respect to the winds; for along the coast of Africa, adjacent to these islands, the trade-wind blows from the north-north-west, to the north-east, according as it comes from the land or sea; taking the medium of these, we may say that the trade-wind blows there at north-by-east; at Lancerota and Fuertaventura, at north-north-east; at Canaria, north-east; but at Tenerife, north-east-by-east; and further to the westward, at Palma, it blows at east-north-east. We may observe by this, that the further we depart from the coast of Africa, the more we find the wind to veer to the eastward; but beyond Palma it remains the same, viz. at east-north-east, for then it is out of the reach of the attraction or influence of the African coast. What causes that influence, I shall have occasion to explain in the description of the continent. The above account of the winds is only to be understood of fine weather, when the trade-wind blows true, for it often varies a few points.

THE sea-breeze in Tenerife generally sets in about ten o'clock in the morning, on the

east and north-east sides of the island, and blows till five or six in the evening, when it falls calm until midnight; then the land-wind begins, and continues until seven or eight in the morning, when it is succeeded by a calm, which continues until the sea-breeze begins again to blow.

THE sea-breeze in the bay of Santa Cruz, and on all the east side of the island, blows commonly at east; and the land wind at west. On the north side, the sea-breeze blows at north-east-by-east, or north-east; and the land-wind directly opposite to it. But at Point Nago, where the land projects far into the sea towards the north-east, there is no land-wind.

ON the brow of the hill, behind or above Santa Cruz, and at the city of Laguna, a fresh gale at north-west prevails all the time of the sea-breeze, which is occasioned by the mountains almost surrounding the plain; for they are so exceeding high on the south side of it, as to beat back the sea-breeze, and throw it against the mountains that bound the north side of the plain, where finding no passage, it veers to the south-east, where meeting with no resistance, it forces itself through the plain with great vehemence, until it comes to the brow of the hill above-mentioned, where part of the current of air pours down the hill towards Santa Cruz, and even advances within a mile and half of the sea, where it is checked by the true sea-breeze. The inhabitants of Laguna and Santa Cruz receive some benefit from the strength of this north-west wind, as it sets at work twelve or fifteen mills, which they



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they have erected on the brow of the hill, for grinding of corn.

ON the south-west coast of Tenerife there is no regular sea or land-breeze, because the trade or north-easterly wind cannot get at it by reason of the immense height of the island towering above the region of that wind; so that on this side of the island, either an eddy-wind at south-west prevails, or a calm.

THE clouds, as I observed before, are generally suspended half way between the sea and top of the Pike. Below those clouds, the north-easterly winds mostly prevail; and at the same time above them, we find a fresh westerly gale; which I believe to be the case in every part of the world where the trade-wind blows. I cannot pretend to account properly for this phænomenon, but so it is on the top of Tenerife, and of some of the rest of the islands. The hard northerly gales that blow in the winter season in the sea adjacent to the Canary Islands, never blow home to the shore, being as it were struck dead, if not reflected by the excessive height of the land, over which the wind cannot pass. This I have often experienced; for I have several times run from the Lizard Point, in Cornwall, to the Canary Islands in nine, ten, and twelve days, with fresh gales of northerly wind, a great sea following us all the way: when we arrived there, I was informed there had been in all that time a heavy long swell on the north side of the islands, but not a breath of wind, so that the ships then lying in Port Orotava rode with a slack cable. But on the north side of Tenerife, viz. at Orotava, a north-west wind is

exceeding dangerous, for that wind blows upon the shore, but not directly against the excessive high land, which no doubt would deaden and reflect it, but against the land projecting out north-east into the sea, and which is terminated by Point Nago: now that land being moderately high, and rising gradually from the sea towards the mountains of Laguna, the north-west wind finds a passage over it, and consequently blows freely. However, the pilots who have the charge of ships in this road, know the signs of the weather so well, that they take care not to be surprised with a north-west wind, for when they find it coming on, they slip their cables and put out to sea. They are so watchful in this matter, that no ship has been wrecked here by that wind in the memory of man.

THE produce of this island is much the same as that of Canaria, only there is less corn-land here, and more vineyards. The wines are strong, good, and fit for exportation, especially to hot climates, which improve them much. There was formerly a great quantity of Malvasia or Canary sack made here, but of late days, there are not above fifty pipes made in a season; for they gather the grapes when green, and make a dry hard wine of them; which, when about two or three years old, can hardly be distinguished from Madeira wine, but after four years of age, it turns so mellow and sweet, that it resembles the wine of Malaga in Spain. Orchilla-weed grows here in abundance, as it does in all the Canary Islands.

## C H A P. XI.

*Description of the Island of Palma.*

**F**ROM Teno, the west end of Tenerife, to the nearest part of the island of Palma, it is, west-north-west, seventeen leagues. Palma is about eight leagues in length, reckoning it from north to south, and the extreme breadth about six leagues.

THE summit of this island is higher than that of Tenerife; for, as I observed before, we reckon the Pike, or sugar-loaf, only as a hill placed on the top of the island. When one who has not seen land of an uncommon height, approaches within twelve leagues of the islands Tenerife and Palma, in clear weather, and comes all at once to behold them, his surprize will be very great, and not unlike that which strikes a person who has never seen the ocean, until he comes to have a full view of it all at once from the top of an adjacent mountain.

THE chief port in Palma is that of Santa Cruz, on the south-east side of the island. The mark by which a stranger may find it, is the following: when he approaches to the east side of the island, Palma will then appear to him shaped exactly like a saddle. Let him steer so as to fall in a little to windward of the lowest place, or middle of the saddle, until

he comes within a mile of the land ; then run along-shore to the southward, and he will perceive the town close by the sea-shore, and the shipping lying in the road ; but as the land behind or above the town is high and steep, one cannot discern the shipping till within a mile of them. The road is within a musquet-shot of the shore, where vessels commonly ride in fifteen or twenty fathoms water, and are exposed to easterly winds ; yet, with good anchors and cables, may ride with great safety, in all winds that blow in this part of the world, for the ground is clean and good, and the great height of the island, with the perpendicular height of the land facing the road, repels the wind that blows upon it, though ever so strong ; yet there is always, in good weather, a gentle sea-breeze in the road. When there is a great north-east swell out at sea, it comes rolling into the bay ; but, for want of wind, and because of the deepness of the water close to the shore, it has no power or force, so that ships in such a case ride here with a slack cable. These things considered, we may conclude the road of Santa Cruz, in Palma, to be more secure than any of those of Canaria or Tenerife ; but in the winter-time, the rolling swell that comes into the bay, breaks high upon the beach, and prevents boats from going off or landing, for the space of three or four days together. A small mole was formerly built here, at a considerable expence, but was soon after destroyed by the violence of the surf. Another has been begun to be erected there, and the work carried on for some years past, but I do not know that it is yet finished.

SANTA

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SANTA CRUZ DE LA PALMA is a large town, containing two parish churches, several convents of Friars and Nuns, with many neat private buildings; though not so good and large as those of the city of Palmas in Canaria, or of the towns of Tenerife. Near the mole is a castle or battery, mounted with a few cannon, for the defence of the shipping in the bay, and to prevent an enemy from landing. In the middle of the town, near the great church, is a fountain, filled by a rivulet, which plentifully supplies the inhabitants with good water.

TASSACORTA, the next port, lies on the south-west part of the island; it is exposed to westerly winds, and little frequented by any vessels excepting boats.

IN all this island there is no town of any note, excepting Santa Cruz; but many villages, the chief of which are St. Andres and Tassacorta.

IN the north-east part of Palma, inland, is a spacious high mountain, steep on all sides, called la Caldera, i. e. the Cauldron. This mountain is hollow, like the Pike of Tenerife; the summit is about two leagues in diameter every way, and within descends gradually from thence to the bottom, which is a space of about thirty acres.

ON the declivity of the inside spring several rivulets, which join all together at the bottom, and issue in one stream through a passage to the outside of the mountain from which it descends, and, after running some distance from thence, it turns two sugar-mills. The water of this stream is unwholesome, by reason of

its being tainted with other water, of a pernicious quality, which mixes with it in the cauldron. All the inside of the cauldron abounds with herbage, and is covered with laurels, te-a or pitch-pine, palms, lignum Rhodium, and retamas; these last, in this island, have a yellow bark, and grow to the size of large trees, but in the others they are only shrubs. The shepherds here are very careful not to let the he-goats feed on the leaves of the retama, because they breed a stone in the bladder, which kills them.

On the outside of the cauldron spring two rivulets, one of which runs northward to the village of St. Andres, and turns two sugar-mills, the other runs to the eastward, to the town of Santa Cruz. Besides these there are no other rivulets, streams, or fountains of water of any consequence in the island; for which reason the natives build square reservoirs or tanks, with planks of pitch-pine, which they make tight by caulking; these they fill from the torrents of rain-water that fall down from the mountains in the winter-season, and preserve it for themselves and great cattle; for the sheep, goats, and hogs, in places distant from the rivulets, feed on roots of fern and asphodil \* almost all the year round, and therefore have little or no need of water, there being moisture enough in those roots to supply their want. The south quarter of the island is most destitute of water; yet there is a medicinal well of hot water there, so close to the sea shore that

\* The Spaniards call these last, roots of gamones, which I believe to be roots of asphodil.



the tide flows into it at full sea. At another place, called Uguer, is a cave, which has a long narrow entrance, so strait that a person must enter it backwards, keeping his face all the while towards the mouth of the cave that he may see his way. After he has got through this passage, he enters into a spacious grotto, where water distils from between the large flakes of slate-stones that hang from the roof. The least blow given to these, resounds through the cave with a noise like thunder. In the district of Tifuya is a mountain, which, to all appearance, has been removed from its original situation by an earthquake: the natives have a tradition, that the spot where it now stands was a plain, and the most fruitful spot in the whole island, until it was destroyed by the burning lava, and the fall of the mountain.

THE summit of Palma formerly abounded with trees; but in the year 1545, and after it, a great drought prevailed, which destroyed them all: however, some time after, others began to spring, but were destroyed by the rabbits and other animals, who finding no pasture below, went up there and eat all the young trees and herbs; so that now the upper part of the island is quite bare and desolate. Those rabbits were first brought to Palma by Don Pedro Fernandez de Lugo, the second Adelantado, or Lieutenant-governor of Tenerife, and have since increased exceedingly.

BEFORE the shrubs and trees failed from the summit of the island, much manna fell there, which the natives gathered, and sent to Spain for sale.

The produce here is much the same with that of Gran Canaria, only with this difference, that a great quantity of sugar is made in Palma, especially on the west side of the island. The east side produces good wines, of a different taste and flavour from those of Tenerife: the dry wine is small-bodied, and of a yellow colour. The Malvasia is not so luscious or strong as that of Tenerife, but when it is about three years old, has the flavour of a rich and ripe pine apple: but these wines are very difficult of preservation when exported, especially to cold climates, where they often turn sour. There is abundance of good honey here, especially in those hives which are at a distance from vines and mocanes (a fruit resembling elder-berries) for both these have a bad effect on its colour. In Palma is much gum-dragon; and from the te-a or pitch-pine, pitch is extracted in great quantities.

ALL sorts of fruits growing in Canaria or Tenerife, are found here also, in greater abundance, insomuch that the natives cannot consume them; but having sugar in great plenty, they make vast quantities of sweetmeats and conserves, which they export to the rest of the islands, and to some part of the Indies.

IN time of scarcity of corn, the natives of this island make good bread of the roots of fern. I never eat any of that sort of bread here, but I have in the island of Gomera, and found it not much inferior to that made of wheat-flour; but the fern in Gomera is reckoned better and more wholesome than that of Palma,

ALTHOUGH the woods that grew on the summit of Palma were all destroyed, yet there is abundance of trees in the region of the clouds, and beneath it, infomuch that the island, at about two leagues distance, appears like one entire wood. Pine-trees grow here to such a size, as to be fit for masts for the largest ships; but they are heavy, and, by reason of the ruggedness of the roads, the expence of bringing them to the shore would be immense; I remember an English American sloop, of one hundred and fifty tons, having lost her mast, was towed in here by the fishing-boats; the natives gave the master leave to go to the woods and cut any tree fit for his purpose gratis; but the expence of bringing it down, though labour is cheap here, cost him twenty-five pounds sterling: nevertheless, much timber is exported from hence to the rest of the islands.

THE air, weather, and winds are much the same here as at Canaria and Tenerife, only with this difference, that westerly winds and rain are rather more frequent in Palma, the reason of which is, that it lies more to the westward and northward, consequently not being so far within the verge of the north-east trade-wind as those islands, is more exposed to variable winds, particularly the south-west, which is the most prevalent wind in the latitudes adjacent to those of the north-east trade.

As to the climate here, and in Canaria, Tenerife, Gomera, and Hierro, a person will find great difference, according as he lives near the sea-shore, or up in the mountains;  
for

for in the months of July, August, and September, the heat is somewhat intolerable near the sea-shore, when there is a calm ; but when the heat is so great on the sea-coast, the air is quite fresh and pleasant on the mountains. In the middle of winter, the habitations far up in the mountains, near the clouds, are excessively cold ; the natives keep fires burning in their houses all the day long, which is never done below, near the sea, for there they use fire only in their kitchens. Were the inhabitants of the city of Laguna to have the least idea of the pleasure of the social winter fire, they would no doubt build chimneys in their houses, for in that place the weather is raw and cold in that season : hail frequently falls in this place ; and some of the oldest of the present inhabitants remember a great snow falling upon the plain, where it remained for some days.

FOR eight months of the year the summits of all the Canary Islands, Lancerota and Fuertaventura excepted, are generally covered with snow.

ON viewing Palma at the distance of three leagues off at sea, one would imagine that the mountains were full of gutters, or beds of torrents of rain-water ; but these only appear little, being high up, consequently at a great distance off ; but when one approaches near, he finds them to be large valleys or hollows, abounding with wood.

THIS island has not been exempted from volcanos, the effects of which are still to be seen in almost every part of it ; for the channels where the burning matter, melted ores,  
and

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and calcined stones and ashes ran, are easily distinguished. In the memory \* of some of the oldest inhabitants living in the year 1750, one of those fiery rivers ran down from the mountains toward the town of Santa Cruz, and emptied itself into the sea about a mile to the northward of the town. No considerable earthquake hath happened in those islands for some years past, but now and then they have some slight shocks: they had some at the time of the memorable earthquake at Lisbon, but they were scarce perceptible; only the sudden

\* Nunno de Penna, in his Historical Memoirs, says, that on the 13th of November, 1677, a little after sun set, the earth shook for thirteen leagues, with a frightful noise, that lasted five days, during which the earth opened in several places; but the greatest gap was upon that called Mont aux Chevres, a mile and a half from the sea, from whence proceeded a great fire, which cast up stones and pieces of rock. The like happened in several places thereabouts; and in less than a quarter of an hour it made twenty-eight gaps about the foot of the mountain, which vomited abundance of flames and burning stones. It took its course over the plain of Los Cainos, and ran with violence towards the Holy Fountain; but coming near the brink of the great descent, turned to the right, and forced its way towards the Old Port, where the Spaniards landed when they made themselves masters of this island. He adds, that on the 20th of November following, there was a second eruption of the Mont aux Chevres, from whence came forth stones and fire, with great earthquakes and thunders, for several days, so that black cinders were taken up at seven leagues distance, the adjacent lands were entirely destroyed, and the inhabitants forced to quit their habitations.

flux

flux and reflux of the sea was evident enough, at Porto de Luz, in Canaria, where the sea went about a mile back, and remained there for some time. The people of Palma at that time seeing a wreck lying upon the ground, which the water had left bare, some of them were so bold as to go to it, but the sea suddenly returning, swept them all away. A boatman at Port Orotava told me, that on the day of the Lisbon earthquake, his boat was hauled up on the beach, and he was leaning upon it, conversing with some fishermen on the strand; when all on a sudden the sea floated his boat, and wetted him and his companions to the middle; then retiring a great way back, it returned again, but not with such violence as at first; and so continued ebbing and flowing for the space of an hour: they were all astonished at this strange phænomenon; but when they received the news of the destruction at Lisbon, my boatman swore solemnly that he never would work on All-saints day again while he lived; "Which oath, added he, I intend most religiously to observe."

THE black shining sand which we throw upon writing to prevent blotting, is found in many places on the shore of this and the other islands. It seems to have been thrown out of volcanos; and is certainly the most perfect iron, for the magnet or load-stone will, when held near it, lick up every grain, leaving nothing behind. I have been told that some experiments have been publicly made, without effect, to turn this sand into bar-iron: yet I am credibly informed that a gentleman in London understands



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understands this secret, and has a case of razors made of this same black shining sand.

### C H A P. XII.

#### *Of the Island of Gomera.*

**T**HE middle of Gomera lies south-west from Point Teno, in Tenerife, about six leagues distance. The principal town is situated close by the sea-shore, in the bottom or cod of a bay, where shipping lie land-locked from all winds, except the south-east. Here you may moor at a convenient distance from the shore, from seven fathoms water to fifteen; but as the land-wind frequently blows hard, it is necessary for a ship to moor with a large scope of cable, otherwise she will be in danger of being blown out of the bay. The sea here is generally so smooth, that boats may land on the beach without danger. On the north side of the bay is a cove, where ships of any burthen may haul close to the shore (which is a high and perpendicular cliff), and there heave down, clean, or repair. When boats cannot land on the beach, on account of the surf, they put ashore at this cove, from whence there is a path-way, along the face of the cliff, to the town; but it is so narrow that two persons cannot walk a-breast: near the end of this road is a gate, which is always shut after sun-set, or when it turns dark, and then no man can  
pass

pass that way. About a stone's throw from the beach begins the principal street of the town, and from thence runs strait inland. The town is called La Villa de Palmas, i. e. the Town of Palms, because of the number of palm-trees growing there. It has a church and convent of Friars, with about one hundred and fifty private houses, most of which are but mean and small. It is well supplied with good water, which the inhabitants draw from wells in every part of the town. In the winter-season, a large rivulet, from the mountains, empties itself into the port. On the south side of the mouth of this rivulet stands an old round tower, which was built by Don Miguel Peraza, the first Count of Gomera; and on the top of the perpendicular cliff, on the north side of the cove, is a chapel, and a battery of a few pieces of cannon for the defence of the port. As I have lost the journals of the voyages in which I touched here, I cannot be so particular in giving directions to find this excellent port as I could wish; but, to the best of my remembrance, the land that forms the north point of the bay, is the most southerly point of land on the east side of Gomera, that can be seen from Point Teno in Tenerife. That land, when one is to the northward of it, at about a league distance, bears a great resemblance to the Ram-head, near Plymouth-sound. In going into the bay it is necessary to stand close in with this point, for the land-wind is commonly too scanty for a ship to fetch the proper anchoring-place; for that reason it is better to come in with the sea-breeze, which generally begins to blow here about noon.

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THE best place for a ship to lie here, is where a full view may be had along through the main street of the town, and at about the distance of a cable's length from the beach: it is necessary to moor as soon as possible, because of eddy-winds that sometimes blow in the bay.

GOMERA, though not so large and populous as Palma, is a considerable island; for many rivulets flow from its craggy mountains, and water the narrow valleys; in short, in every part of the island water may be found by digging the ground to about the depth of five or six feet. Among the fountains that abound here, the following are most esteemed, viz. Chemele, Tegoay, and la Fuente del Conde, i. e. the Count's Fountain. No pines grow here, but many other kinds of trees, particularly barbusanos \*, mocanes, savines, adernos, vinatigos, files, palms, with a great number of mastick-trees, which yield abundance of the gum of that name.

THE produce of this island is much the same with that of Tenerife, Canaria, or Palma. The natives have generally just corn enough for their own use, and seldom import nor export any. In this particular Gomera resembles Gran Canaria, having almost every necessary within itself, and therefore stands in need of little or nothing from abroad; for corn, wine, roots, fruit, honey, cattle, and fowls † are here in great plenty: and was there encourage-

\* The wood of the barbusano is something like mahogany, but blacker; when green it stinks most abominably.

† There are no turkeys in Gomera.

ment in Gomera for industry, the natives could easily manufacture enough of their own wool and raw silk sufficient to clothe themselves: and here is stone, lime, timber, and all other materials fit for building, excepting iron.

THE Gomeran wine in general is weak, poor, and sharp, therefore unfit for exportation? yet some of it, when two years old, excels the very best Madeira wine in taste and flavour, although it is in colour fair as water, and weak as small beer. I brought some dozens of this wine to London, where I shewed it to some people as a great curiosity; but they did not relish it, for the English esteem no weak wine, let its taste and flavour be ever so delicate. The wine-merchants in France, Spain, Portugal, and some other places, knowing this, take care to mix brandy even with the strongest wines which they send to England.

BESIDES the animals common in the rest of the islands, here is plenty of deer, which were originally brought hither from Barbary. More mules are bred in Gomera than in any of the seven islands; but I do not remember to have seen any camels here. Neither snakes or serpents are found in any of the Canary Islands except Gomera; but I have no reason to believe, by any thing I could learn, that they are venomous or do any harm.

## C H A P. XIII.

*Of the Island of Hierro.*

**T**HIS island is about fifteen leagues in circumference, and five in breadth. It rises steep and craggy from the sea, on all sides, for above a league, in such a manner as to render the ascent very difficult and fatiguing: after travelling this league, the rest of the island will be found to be tolerably level and fruitful, for it abounds with many kinds of trees and shrubs, particularly pines, bresos, savines, laurels, palos blancos, adernos, barbusanos, acevinos, mocanes, retamas, beech, escobones (of which the Spaniards make brooms or besoms), and some palms; but no gum-dragon-trees grow here.

THIS island produces better grass, herbs, and flowers than any of the other islands, so that bees thrive and multiply here extremely, and make excellent honey. The wine of Hierro is poor, weak, and bad, insomuch that the natives are obliged to distil the greatest part of it into brandy. There are only three fountains of water in the whole island, one of them is called Acof\*, which in the language of the ancient inhabitants signifies River; a

\* In the Azanaga dialect of the Lybian tongue, Aseif signifies a River.

name, however, which does not seem to have been given it on account of its yielding much water, for in that respect it hardly deserves the name of a fountain. More to the northward is another, called Hapio; and in the middle of the island is a spring, yielding a stream about the thickness of a man's finger. This last was discovered in the year 1565, and is called the Fountain of Anton Hernandez. On account of the scarcity of water, the sheep, goats, and swine here do not drink in the summer, but are taught to dig up the roots of fern, and chew them to quench their thirst. The great cattle are watered at those fountains, and at a place where water distils from the leaves of a tree. Many writers have made mention of this famous tree; some in such a manner as to make it appear miraculous: others again deny the existence of any such tree, among whom is Father Feyjoo, a modern Spanish author, in his *Theatro Critico*. But he, and those who agree with him in this matter, are as much mistaken as they who would make it appear to be miraculous. This is the only island of all the Canaries which I have not been in; but I have sailed with natives of Hierro, who when questioned about the existence of this tree, answered in the affirmative.

THE author of the History of the Discovery and Conquest has given us a particular account of it, which I shall relate here at large.

“ THE district in which this tree stands is  
 “ called Tigulahe, near to which, and in the  
 “ cliff or steep rocky ascent that surrounds the  
 “ whole island, is a narrow gutter or gulley,  
 “ which commences at the sea, and continues

“ to



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“ to the summit of the cliff, where it joins or  
 “ coincides with a valley, which is terminated  
 “ by the steep front of a rock. On the top of  
 “ this rock grows a tree, called, in the lan-  
 “ guage of the ancient inhabitants, Garfe, i. e.  
 “ Sacred or Holy Tree, which for many years  
 “ has been preserved sound, entire, and fresh.  
 “ Its leaves constantly distil such a quantity of  
 “ water as is sufficient to furnish drink to every  
 “ living creature in Hierro; nature having  
 “ provided this remedy for the drought of the  
 “ island. It is situated about a league and a  
 “ half from the sea. Nobody knows of what  
 “ species it is, only that it is called Til. It is  
 “ distinct from other trees, and stands by it-  
 “ self; the circumference of the trunk is about  
 “ twelve spans, the diameter four, and in  
 “ height from the ground to the top of the  
 “ highest branch forty spans: the circum-  
 “ ference of all the branches together is one  
 “ hundred and twenty feet. The branches  
 “ are thick and extended; the lowest com-  
 “ mence about the height of an ell from the  
 “ ground. Its fruit resembles the acorn, and  
 “ tastes something like the kernel of a pine-  
 “ apple \*, but is softer and more aromatic.  
 “ The leaves of this tree resemble those of  
 “ the laurel, but are larger, wider, and more  
 “ curved; they come forth in a perpetual suc-  
 “ cession, so that the tree always remains green.  
 “ Near to it grows a thorn, which fastens on

\* Not the anana, but the fir or pine tree pear, nut,  
 or apple. Those of Britain have nothing in them;  
 but the pine-apples in Spain, and some other coun-  
 tries, contain a kernel of an agreeable taste.

“ many

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“ many of its branches and interweaves with  
 “ them; and at a small distance from the  
 “ Garfe are some beech-trees, bresos, and  
 “ thorns. On the north side of the trunk are  
 “ two large tanks or cisterns of rough stone,  
 “ or rather one cistern divided, each half being  
 “ twenty feet square, and sixteen spans in  
 “ depth. One of these contains water for the  
 “ drinking of the inhabitants, and the other  
 “ that which they use for their cattle, wash-  
 “ ing, and such like purposes. Every morning,  
 “ near this part of the island, a cloud or mist  
 “ arises from the sea, which the south and  
 “ easterly winds force against the fore-men-  
 “ tioned steep cliff; so that the cloud, having  
 “ no vent but by the gutter, gradually ascends  
 “ it, and from thence advances slowly to the  
 “ extremity of the valley, where it is stopped  
 “ and checked by the front of the rock which  
 “ terminates the valley, and then rests upon  
 “ the thick leaves and wide-spreading branches  
 “ of the tree, from whence it distils in drops  
 “ during the remainder of the day, until it is  
 “ at length exhausted, in the same manner  
 “ that we see water drip from the leaves of  
 “ trees after a heavy shower of rain. This  
 “ distillation is not peculiar to the garfe, or  
 “ til, for the bresos, which grow near it, like-  
 “ wise drop water; but their leaves being but  
 “ few and narrow, the quantity is so trifling,  
 “ that though the natives save some of it, yet  
 “ they make little or no account of any but  
 “ what distils from the til; which, together  
 “ with the water of some fountains, and what  
 “ is saved in the winter-season, is sufficient to  
 “ serve them and their flocks. This tree yields  
 most

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“ most water in those years when the Levant  
“ or easterly winds have prevailed for a conti-  
“ nuance ; for by these winds only, the clouds  
“ or mists are drawn hither from the sea. A  
“ person lives on the spot near which this tree  
“ grows, who is appointed by the Council to  
“ take care of it and its water, and is allowed  
“ a house to live in, with a certain salary. He  
“ every day distributes to each family of the  
“ district, seven pots or vessels full of water,  
“ besides what he gives to the principal people  
“ of the island.”

WHETHER the tree which yields water at this present time be the same as that mentioned in the above description, I cannot pretend to determine, but it is probable there has been a succession of them ; for Pliny, describing the Fortunate Islands, says, “ In the mountains of  
“ Ombrion are trees, resembling the plant *ferula*, from which water may be procured  
“ by pressure: what comes from the black  
“ kind is bitter, but that which the white yields  
“ is sweet and potable.”

TREES yielding water are not peculiar to the island of Hierro, for travellers inform us of one of the same kind in the island of St. Thomas, in the bight or gulph of Guinea. In Cockburn's Voyages we find the following account of a dropping tree near the mountains of Vera Paz, in America.

“ ON the morning of the fourth day we  
“ came out on a large plain, where were great  
“ numbers of fine deer ; and in the middle  
“ stood a tree of unusual size, spreading its  
“ branches over a vast compass of ground.  
“ Curiosity led us up to it : we had perceived,

at

“ at some distance off, the ground about it to  
“ be wet, at which we began to be somewhat  
“ surprised, as well knowing there had no rain  
“ fallen for near six months past, according to  
“ the certain course of the season in that lati-  
“ tude; that it was impossible to be occasioned  
“ by the fall of dew on the tree, we were con-  
“ vinced by the sun’s having power to exhale  
“ away all moisture of that nature a few mi-  
“ nutes after its rising. At last, to our great  
“ amazement as well as joy, we saw water  
“ dropping, or as it were distilling, fast from  
“ the end of every leaf of this wonderful (nor  
“ had it been amiss if I had said miraculous)  
“ tree; at least it was so with respect to us,  
“ who had been labouring four days through  
“ extreme heat, without receiving the least  
“ moisture, and were now almost expiring for  
“ the want of it.

“ WE could not help looking on this as li-  
“ quor sent from heaven to comfort and sup-  
“ port us under great extremity. We caught  
“ what we could of it in our hands, and drank  
“ very plentifully of it, and liked it so well  
“ that we could hardly prevail with ourselves  
“ to give over. A matter of this nature could  
“ not but excite us to make the strictest obser-  
“ vations concerning it, and accordingly we  
“ staid under the tree near three hours, and  
“ found we could not fathom its body in five  
“ times. We observed the soil where it grew  
“ to be very stony; and, upon the nicest en-  
“ quiry we could afterwards make, both of  
“ the natives of the country and the Spanish  
“ inhabitants, we could not learn there was  
“ any such tree known throughout New Spain,

nor

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“ nor perhaps all America over : .but I do not  
 “ relate this as a prodigy in nature, because I  
 “ am not philosopher enough to ascribe any  
 “ natural cause for it ; the learned may, per-  
 “ haps, give substantial reason in nature, for  
 “ what appeared to us as a great and marvel-  
 “ lous secret.”.

IF I am not mistaken, there is only one pa-  
 rish church in the whole island, and no consi-  
 derable town. The port or anchoring-place I  
 am not acquainted with, having never been  
 there ; but am informed it is an open road, and  
 but little frequented, excepting by boats and  
 small barks.

As I have now given some description of all  
 the Canary Islands, I shall proceed to describe  
 the manners and customs of the natives, their  
 trade, policy, &c. But before I enter on that  
 subject, it will not be improper to give some  
 account of the islands, rather rocks, called the  
 Salvages ; because by some they are reckoned  
 as part of the Canary Islands. They lie  
 twenty-seven leagues north from Point Nago  
 in Tenerife. The chief island is high and  
 rocky, and is about a league in circumference.  
 Three or four leagues south-west from this  
 island is another, which resembles the largest  
 Needle rock at the west end of the Isle of  
 Wight. Between those islands are many rocks  
 and sands, some of which are above and others  
 under water ; therefore it is dangerous, for  
 those who are not well acquainted with those  
 islands, to approach them, except on the east  
 side of the great island. I have sailed past it  
 this way, within the distance of a stone's throw.  
 People who come to this island, anchor some-  
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where on the south-east side. It produces nothing but orchilla-weed. Here are great plenty of cormorants, or sea-fowls resembling them. Some barks and boats from the Canary Islands frequent the Salvages in the summer in quest of wrecks and those sea-fowls. They catch the young in their nests, kill and salt them, and then carry them to Tenerife for sale. The Salvages, though uninhabited, belong to the Portugueze, who reckon them as dependent on the island of Madeira, and although they scarcely ever visit them, yet they will not allow the Spaniards to gather orchilla-weed there. Some years ago a few fishermen went thither in a bark from Tenerife, in quest of wrecks; but not finding any, they went ashore and gathered about half a ton of orchilla-weed. When this was known at Madeira, the Portugueze made complaint thereof to the Governor-general of the Canary Islands, and would not be satisfied till the poor master of the bark was thrown into prison, where he remained a long time. The Portugueze, in this affair, behaved somewhat like the English, who will neither be at the trouble to catch fish in what they call their own seas, nor suffer others to catch them, without complaining of it as a matter of transgression.



C H A P. XIV.

*Of the Natives of Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, and Hierro; their Persons, Dress, and Buildings.*

WE have already shewn, in the History of the Discovery and Conquest of these islands, who were the first inhabitants thereof, and in what manner the Spaniards and other Europeans incorporated with them, so as that these different nations became at length one people.

THE descendants of this mingled nation are now denominated Spaniards, and use no other language than the Castillian: the gentry speak it in perfection, but the peasants, who inhabit the remote parts of the islands, in a manner almost unintelligible to strangers; their pronounciation being such as not unaptly to be compared to a man talking with something in his mouth.

THE natives here are of a spare habit of body, middle sized, tolerably well shaped, have good features, and complexions more deeply swarthy than those of the natives of the southern parts of Spain: but they have fine large sparkling black eyes, which give a vivacity and dazzling lustre to the countenance, insomuch that in my opinion there are as many handsome people to be found here (in propor-

tion to the number of inhabitants) as in England. For the English, though excelling all the people I have seen in fineness and freshness of complexion, yet their countenances in general are dull and unmeaning, when compared with those of the natives of the Canary Islands: yet, upon the whole, it must be owned that the old people here look more like demons than the human kind.

THE peasants are cloathed after the modern fashion of the Spaniards, which is much the same with the habit of the common people in England, only with this difference, that here the natives, when dressed, wear long cloaks instead of upper coats; but the peasants of Canaria use, instead of the cloak, an upper garment fastened about the middle by a sash or girdle. This garment is white, long, and narrow, having a neck like an English riding-coat, and is made of the wool of their own sheep. All the lower sort of people in these islands wear their own hair, which is black, and generally bushy; they let it grow to a great length, and, when they dress, comb it out in such a manner, that the fashion of wearing hair at present here, seems to be the same as that which prevailed in England in the reign of King James I. They tuck the hair of the right side of the head behind the right ear.

THE gentlemen, instead of their own hair, wear white perukes, which form an odd contrast to their dusky complexions. They never put on their perukes, upper coats, or swords, but when they pay formal visits, walk in processions, or go to church on high festivals: at other times their habit is a linen night-cap bordered

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bordered or ruffled with cambrick or lace, and above it a broad-brimmed hat slouched, and, instead of a coat, a long wide camblet cloak of a raisin or black colour. They never wear an upper coat without a sword, and generally walk with the hat under the arm.

THE women of the lower rank wear on their heads a coarse linen gauze, which falls down upon their shoulders; they pin it together under the chin, so that the lower part serves as a handkerchief to cover the neck and breasts. Above this (when they go abroad) they wear a broad-brimmed hat slouched, to shelter their faces from the sun; and on their shoulders a mantle of baize, flannel, or say. They use no stays, but instead of them a short tight jacket, laced before. They wear many petticoats, which make them appear uncommonly bulky; but the poor people who live in towns, wear veils when they walk the streets; these are made of black say, and in the form of two petticoats, one above the other: when they go abroad, they take the upper fold and bring it over the head, wrapping it so close about them that no part of the face is seen but one eye; thus they behold every body they meet, without being known, for all their veils are of the same colour and stuff, except those of the ladies, which are made of silk.

IN Santa Cruz in the island of Tenerife, and in the city of Palmas in Canaria, some of the most fashionable ladies go abroad in their chariots, dressed after the modes of the French and English; but none walk the streets unveiled, yet the ladies now-a-days

wear them so open, that any body may discover the whole face, the neck, and even a part of the breasts. The young ladies wear no cap or any thing else on their heads, but have their fine long black hair plaited, tucked up behind, and laid on the crown of the head, where it is fastened by a gold comb. They wear no stays, but tight short jackets, like the common people, only with this difference, that they are made of finer stuff: they also wear mantles of scarlet cloth or fine white flannel, laced with gold or silver. The most expensive part of their dress is their bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and other jewels.

IN these islands there are scarcely to be seen even among people of the first rank, either a man or woman who walks with an easy and graceful air. This imperfection is owing to nothing else than their going abroad almost constantly veiled, or covered with long cloaks, so that the women are not known, consequently they care not how they walk; and the mens motions are hid by their long cloaks: when they lay them aside, and dress in upper coats, and wear swords, canes, and perukes, with their hats under their arms, they make the most stiff, awkward, and ridiculous appearance imaginable.

THOSE people who have been bred in England, must not expect to find such cleanliness of person every where abroad, as in their own country, especially among the lower sort of people. Here the poor are remarkably lousy, and are not ashamed of it, for the women may be seen sitting at the doors of their houses picking the lice out of one another's heads.

The

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The itch is common among all ranks, and they take no pains to cure it. The same may be said of venereal disorders, although this last distemper is not quite so general as the first.

THE food of the common people in the country is generally goffio, fruit, and wine, with salt-fish, which is brought to those islands from the coast of Barbary in great abundance. Some think that the itch, so frequent here, is owing to the natives eating so much of that food. Fresh fish in the summer is tolerably plenty, but at other times more scarce and dear. I need not here describe the food of the gentry, because in all countries they live on the best.

THE houses of the peasants and lower sort of people are of one story, and built of stone and lime: the roofs are either thatched or tiled. These houses are generally neat, commodious, and clean; indeed there is little dirt or dust in these islands to make them nasty, because the ground is mostly rocky, and, by reason of the almost continual fine weather, is rarely wet. The walls of the houses here are built of stone and lime, the roofs are covered with pantiles, and the beams, rafters, and floors are all of pines. Those of people of rank are two stories high, four-square, with an open court in the middle, much like our public inns in England, having, like them, balconies on the inside of each square of the house, and which are on a level with the floor of the second story. The street-door is placed in the middle of the front of the house; within that door is a second; the space between them is the breadth of the rooms of the house:

this place is called La Casa Puerta, the outer door of which is generally open all day long, and shut in the evening. When you enter the inner door of the casa puerta, you come to the Patio, or court-yard, which is large or small according to the size of the house, and is generally paved with flags, pebbles, or some other stones. In the centre of the court, is a square or circular stone wall, of about the height of four feet, filled with earth, in which are commonly planted banana, orange, or other sort of trees. All the lower story of each quarter of the house, are store-rooms or cellars. The stairs leading to the second story, generally commence at the right or left hand corners, next the door of the court as one enters it, and consist of two flights of steps, which lead into the gallery, from whence one may have access to any quarter of the second story, without going through the rooms of any of them. The principal apartments are commonly in that quarter of the house facing the street, which contains a hall, with an apartment at each end thereof. These rooms are the whole breadth of the quarter, and the hall is just as long again as any of the apartments at its extremities. The windows of these rooms are formed of wooden lattices, curiously wrought, and are all in the outside wall, none of them looking inwards to the court. In the middle of the front-quarter of some great houses, on the outside above the gate, and equal with the floor of the second story, is a balcony; some have a gallery running from one end of the quarter to the other: but this is not common on the outside of the house.

The



The apartments are all white-washed; those at the extremities of the great hall, and some of the rest, are lined with fine mats, to about the height of five feet from the floor, which is sometimes covered with the same stuff. The sides of the windows of all the rooms are lined with boards, to prevent people's cloaths from being whitened by the lime, because the window is the place where they commonly sit, there being benches on each side of it for that purpose; and a stranger is always conducted to the window by the master of the house, when he intends to shew him respect. The inside of the walls of the great hall, and of some of the rest of the apartments, is hung with paintings, which are representations of the Virgin, the twelve apostles, saints, and martyrs, generally drawn as big as the life, and distinguished by some particular circumstance of their history; for instance, St. Peter is represented looking at a cock and weeping, a great bunch of keys hanging at his girdle. St. Anthony, as preaching to the fishes. I do not remember to have seen one profane picture in any of the natives houses, nor even a map. They seldom use curtains to their beds in these islands, looking on them as receptacles for buggs and fleas, which abound and multiply here exceedingly. What they chiefly use are mattresses, which they spread on the floor upon fine mats: besides the bed-linen, there is a blanket, and above that a silk quilt; the sheet, pillows, and quilt are generally fringed, or pinked in the very same manner as the shroud for a dead corpse in some parts of Europe.

IN a particular apartment in every house there is a place raised a step higher than the floor, which is covered with mats or carpets; there the women commonly sit together upon cushions, do their domestic business, and receive visits from their own sex,

## C H A P. XV.

*Of the Manners, Customs, and Genius of the Natives of Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, and Hierro.*

THE natives of these islands, although their deportment is grave, are extremely quick and sensible. The women are remarkable for their vivacity and sprightly conversation, which far exceeds that of the French, English, or other northern nations. This agreeable lively humour is not peculiar to the inhabitants of those islands, but is common to those of the temperate countries, particularly the northern part of Africa, as I shall have occasion to mention in the account which I intend to give of that country.

THE Baron de Montesquieu has been very particular in telling us what effect the air and climate has upon the temper and genius of the inhabitants of different countries; but although no attentive traveller can ever be persuaded to agree with him in his notions of these things, yet we may venture to assert with truth, that the

the natives of the temperate climates are naturally endowed with more sense, penetration, and quickness of apprehension, than those of the countries situated to the southward or northward of them : for, to whatever cause it may be owing, it is certain, that the northern nations, Blacks and Indians, are a heavy, phlegmatic, and stupid people, when compared with the Libyans, Arabs, Spaniards, and Canarians : but this difference cannot be so well observed, as in such of these people as have not had the advantages of education, but are left entirely to nature.

THE great families in those islands would be highly offended, if any one should tell them that they are descended from the Moors, or even the ancient inhabitants of these islands ; yet I imagine it would be no difficult matter to prove, that most of their amiable customs have been handed down to them from those people, and that they have inherited little else from the Gothic side, but barbarity. Yet the Canarian gentry, and all the Spaniards, are proud of being thought to have descended from the Goths.

THE gentry of these islands boast much of their birth, and with reason ; for they are descended from some of the best families in Spain. It is said that the Count of Gomera is the true heir to the honours of the house of Medina Celi \*, but is not able to assert his just title, because of the great influence the present Duke has at the court of Madrid, from

\* The Duke of this name, is one of the Grantees of Spain.

his immense fortune. The gentry here have some privileges, which I cannot specify, but they are trifling. I remember when a Scots Gentleman of family, a physician in Canaria, wanted to obtain the rank of nobility in that island, he was obliged to produce a certificate from his native country, that there never had been a butcher, taylor, miller, or porter in his family. This was not difficult to procure, as he came from a remote part of the Highlands of Scotland, where very few follow any handicraft. It is not to be wondered at, that the profession of a butcher should not be esteemed, or that of a taylor, which last is a profession rather too effeminate for men to be employed in; but why millers and porters should be held in contempt, is hard to imagine; especially the former, who are an inoffensive set of men, and absolutely necessary in almost every country: it is true, indeed, that here they are great thieves, for each family sends its own corn to the mill; where, unless it is narrowly looked after, the miller generally makes an handsome toll. I have been informed, that when any criminal is to suffer death, and the proper executioner happens be out of the way, the officers of justice may seize the first butcher, miller, or porter they can find, and compel him to perform that disagreeable office.

I REMEMBER that once when I touched at the island of Gomera, to procure fresh water, I hired some miserable poor ragged fishermen to fill our water-casks and bring them on board: some time after, I went to the watering-place to see what progress they had made, when I found

found the casks full, and all ready for rolling down to the beach, with the fishermen standing by, conversing together as if they had nothing to do. I reprimanded them for their sloth, in not dispatching the business I employed them in; when one of them, with a disdainful air, replied, "What do you take us to be, Sir? do you imagine we are porters? no, Sir, we are seamen." Notwithstanding all my intreaties, and promises of reward, I could not prevail on any of them to put their hands to the casks to roll them to the water-side, but was obliged to hire porters.

IN another voyage I happened to have several Canarian seamen on board, among whom was a boy from Palma, who had been a butcher's apprentice or servant: the seamen would not eat with him for a long time, until I came to understand it, when I obliged them to mess all together, though my order was not obeyed without much grumbluig and discontent.

ANOTHER time, a patron of one of the Canary fishing-boats came aboard our ship, on the coast of Barbary, and breakfasted with us; besides ourselves, there were then at table a Jew (our interpreter) and a Moor; when the patron (or master of the bark) took me aside, and gravely reprimanded me for bringing him into such bad company; "For (added he) although I am obliged by necessity to earn my bread by the fishery on this coast, yet I am an old Christian of clean blood, and scorn to sit in company with many in Santa Cruz who are called Gentlemen, yet cannot clear themselves from the charge

“ charge of having a mixture of Jewish and  
 “ Moorish blood in their veins.”

THE gentry of these islands are commonly poor, yet extremely polite and well bred. The peasants and labouring poor are not without a considerable share of good manners, and have little of that surly rusticity, which is so common among the lower kind of people in England; yet they do not seem to be abashed or ashamed in presence of their superiors. When a beggar asks alms of a gentleman, he addresses him in this manner, “ For the love of  
 “ God, Sir, please to give me half a rial.” If the other does not choose to give him any thing, he replies in a civil manner, “ May  
 “ your worship excuse me, for the love of  
 “ God.” The servants and common people are excessively addicted to pilfering, for which they are seldom otherwise punished, than by being turned off, beaten when detected, or imprisoned for a short time. Robberies are seldom or ever committed here; but murder is more common than in England, the natives of these islands being addicted to revenge. I do not remember to have heard of any duels among them, for they cannot comprehend how a man’s having courage to fight, can atone for the injury he hath done his antagonist. The consequence of killing a man here, is that the murderer flies to a church for refuge, until he can find an opportunity to escape out of the country: if he had been greatly provoked or injured by the deceased, and did not kill him premeditatedly, or in cold blood, he will find every body ready to assist him in his endeavours to escape, except the near relations  
 of



of the murdered person. Nevertheless quarrels are not so frequent here as in England; which may in part be owing to the fatal consequences they are attended with, or the want of coffee-houses, taverns, or other public houses; and also by reason of the temperance of the gentry in drinking, and their polite behaviour, with the little intercourse there is among them.

THE common people do not fight together in public like the English; but if one person offends another, so as to put him in a violent passion, the injured party, if he is able, takes vengeance on the aggressor in the best manner he can, without regard to what we call fair play, until such time as he thinks he has got sufficient satisfaction of his body equal to the injury received: but quarrelling in public is looked on as highly indecent, and therefore does not often happen.

THE natives of these islands are temperate in their eating and drinking. If a gentleman was to be seen drunk in public, it would be a lasting stain on his reputation. I am informed, that the evidence of a man who can be proved a drunkard, will not be taken in a court of justice; therefore all people here, who have a strong inclination to wine, shut themselves up in their bed-chambers, drink their fill there, then get into bed and sleep it off.

THE gentry are extremely litigious, and generally entangled in intricate and endless law-suits. I happened to be in a Notary's office, in the island of Gomera, where observing huge bundles of papers piled upon the shelves, I enquired of the Notary if it was possible

possible that all the law-business of that little island could swell to such a quantity of writings? he replied, that he had almost twice as much piled up in two cellars; and said there was another of his profession in the same place, who had as much if not more business than himself.

PEOPLE of all ranks in these islands are of an amorous disposition; their notions of love are somewhat romantic, which may be owing to the want of innocent freedom between the sexes; yet I never could observe that the natives here are more jealous than the English or French, although they have been so represented by those nations. The truth of the matter is, that in every country, custom has established between the sexes, certain bounds of decency and decorum, beyond which no person will go, without a bad intention; for instance, freedoms are taken with women in France, which are there reckoned innocent; but would not be suffered by ladies in England, who have any regard for their virtue or reputation: again, in England virtuous women allow men to use such freedoms with them, as no virtuous woman in these islands could bear with: yet in France there are no more loose women, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, than in the Canary Islands.

YOUNG people here fall in love at sight, without having the least acquaintance with the beloved object. When the parties agree to marry, and find their parents averse to their union, they inform the Curate of the parish of the affair, who goes to the house where the girl lives, demands her of her parents or guardians,

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guardians, and endeavours to bring them to agree to her marriage; but if they will not be persuaded to give their consent, he takes her away before their faces without their being able to hinder him, and deposits her in a nunnery, or with some of her relations, until he marries them.

I AM informed that it is not uncommon for a lady here to send to a man, and make him an offer of her person in an honourable way; if he does not think proper to accept of her offer, he keeps it secret till death; if he should do otherwise, he would be looked upon by all people, in the most detestable and despicable light. Young men are not permitted to court young girls, when they have no intention to marry them; for if a woman can prove that a man has, in the least instance, endeavoured to win her affections, she can oblige him to marry her.

I DO not remember to have ever sailed from the Canary Islands, without being strongly importuned to allow young fellows to embark with me, who were under promise of marriage and wanted to forsake their mistresses. I remember to have seen a man at Orotava, who some years before, had lived at Gomera, where he courted a girl, and gained her consent to be his wife; but suddenly repenting of what he had done, and finding no other means of getting away from her, he took the advantage of the first westerly wind, and boldly embarked in an open boat, without oars, sails, or rudder, and launched into the ocean; he was driven before the wind and seas for two days and nights, when at last he drew near the  
rocky

rocky shore adjacent to Adehe in Tenerife, where he must have perished, had it not been for some fishermen, who perceiving his boat, went off, and brought her to a safe harbour.

THIS law, obliging people to adhere to their love-engagements, like many other good laws, is abused; for by means of it, loose women, who have not lost their reputation, often lay snares to entrap the simple and unwary; and worthless ambitious young men form designs upon ladies fortunes, without having the least regard for their persons: although it must be owned there are few mercenary lovers in this part of the world, their notions of that passion being too refined and romantic to admit the idea of making it subservient to interest or ambition.

A YOUNG lady in one of these islands fell deeply in love with a gentleman, and used every art she was mistress of to captivate his heart, but in vain; at last, being hurried on by the violence of her passion, which rendered her quite desperate, she made use of the following stratagem to oblige him to marry her. She prosecuted him upon a promise of marriage, which she pretended he had made to her, and suborned witnesses who swore they had seen him in bed with her. The evidence appeared so clear to the court, that, without the least hesitation, it gave a sentence for the plaintiff, compelling the defendant to marry her. With this unjust sentence he was obliged to comply, though with the utmost regret; for as the lady had shewn so little regard for her reputation, as to swear falsely to her own shame, he could look upon her in no other light,

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light, than that of a loose and abandoned woman: however he was agreeably disappointed, and had all possible reason to believe she was a virgin. Being amazed at her strange conduct, he entreated her to unravel the mystery of her unaccountable behaviour; "For" (said he) you must be sensible that I am innocent of what you have sworn against me." She frankly owned the whole affair, and added for an excuse, that she would rather have lived in hell, than not to have obtained the object of her love. Upon this declaration he generously forgave her, and they afterwards lived happily together.

GENERALLY speaking, there are more unhappy marriages here, than in those countries where young people have more access to be acquainted with one another's dispositions before they agree to live together for life. In countries where innocent freedoms subsist between the sexes, lovers are generally not so blinded with passion, that they cannot perceive their mistresses are mortal, and partake of human frailty, consequently resolve to put up with some failings: but this thought never enters into the imagination of a romantic lover.

GENTLEMEN here get up by day-break, or at sun-rising, and commonly go to church soon after, to hear mass; at eight or nine in the morning they breakfast on chocolate. The ladies seldom go to mass before ten o'clock in the forenoon; but the women-servants generally attend it about sun-rising. At the elevation of the host, which is commonly a little before noon, the bells toll, when all the men  
who

who happen to be in the streets, or within hearing, take off their hats, and say, "I adore thee and praise thee, body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, shed on the tree of the cross, to wash the sins of the world."

AT noon every body goes home to dinner, when all the street-doors are shut until three in the afternoon. In gentlemen's houses, the first dish which is put on the table contains soup, made of beef, mutton, pork, bacon, carrots, turnips, potatoes, peas, onions, saffron, &c. all stewed together: when it is poured into the dish, they put in it thin slices of bread. The second course consists of roasted meat, &c. The third is the olio, or ingredients of which the soup was made. After which comes the desert, consisting of fruit and sweetmeats. The company drink freely of wine, or wine and water, all the time of dinner; but no wine after the cloth is removed. When they drink to one another, they say, "Your health, Sir;" or, "Madam, your health." The answer is, "May you live a thousand years;" and sometimes, "Much good may it do you." Immediately after dinner, a large heavy, shallow, silver dish, filled with water, is put upon the table, when the whole company all at once put their hands into the water, and wash; after which a servant stands at the lower end of the table, and repeats the following benediction, "Blessed and praised be the most holy sacrament of the altar, and the clear and pure conception of the most holy Virgin, conceived in grace from the first instant of her natural existence. Ladies and gentlemen, much  
" good



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“good may it do you.” So making a low bow to the company, he retires; when they rise, and each goes to his apartment, to take a nap for about an hour; this is called the *Siesta*, and is very beneficial in a warm climate; for after one awakes from it, he finds himself refreshed and fit to go about his affairs with spirit: yet the medical gentlemen here condemn this custom, and say it is pernicious to the constitution; but how can a thing be prejudicial to health, that nature compels a man to? for in hot countries there is no avoiding a short nap after dinner, without doing violence to nature, especially where people get up by day-break.

THE gentry seldom give an entertainment without having a Friar for one of the guests, who is generally the Confessor to some of the family. Some of these people, on those occasions, take much upon them, and behave with great freedom, or rather ill manners; yet the master of the house and his guests do not choose to rebuke them, but let them have their own way. I happened once to go to dine at a gentleman's house in one of the islands, when a Franciscan Friar was one of the guests; we had scarce begun to eat, when the Friar asked me if I was a Christian? I replied, “I hope so.” Then he desired me to repeat the Apostles Creed. I answered, that I knew nothing about it. Upon this he stared me full in the face, and said, “O thou black ass!” I asked him what he meant by treating me in that manner? he answered only by repeating the same abuse. The master of the house endeavoured, but in vain, to persuade him

him to give over. As at that time I did not understand Spanish so well as to express myself fluently, I rose up, and told the master of the house, I saw he was not able to protect me from insults at his own table: then taking my hat, I went away.

IN the morning and evening visits, guests are presented with chocolate and sweetmeats; but in the summer evenings with snow-water. People here sup between eight and nine, and retire to rest soon after.

## C H A P. XVI.

*Of the Amusements of the Inhabitants of the Canary Islands; and of the State of Learning among them.*

**E**ACH of the Canary Islands, and every town or village in it, has some particular saint for its patron, whose day is celebrated as a festival by a particular service in the church, where a sermon is preached in honour of the saint.

ON these occasions the street near the church is strewed with leaves of trees, flowers, &c. a great number of wax tapers are lighted, and a considerable quantity of gun-powder expended in fire-works. The money necessary for defraying the expence of these festivals, is commonly raised by a contribution among the parishioners. On the eve of that day there is generally

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generally a kind of fair, to which the people of the adjacent country flock, and spend the greatest part of the night in jollity and dancing to the sound of the guittar, accompanied by the voices of the dancers, and of those who play on that instrument. Many sorts of dances are practised here, particularly Zarabands and Folias, which are slow dances; the tune they always play to the last-mentioned, is the same with that which we call Joy to great Cæsar, &c. The quick dances are the Canario, Fandango, and Zapateo: the first of these was the dance used by the ancient Canarians; the second is that which is now mostly practised by the vulgar; and the last is much the same with our hornpipe.

SOME of these dances may be called dramatic, for the men sing verses to their partners, who answer them in the same manner. These islanders have commonly excellent voices, and there are but few of them who cannot play on the guittar.

ON the feast of the tutelar saints of Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma, plays are acted in the streets for the amusement of the multitude; but as the performers are not actors by profession, being some of the inhabitants of the place, who have a natural turn that way, it cannot be expected they should attain to any degree of excellence in these exhibitions.

EVERY family of eminence has its particular saint or patron, to whose honour a festival is held at a great expence: on such occasions the gentry vie with one another in costly entertainments and splendor.

THE

THE diversions among the vulgar, besides singing, playing on the guittar, and dancing, are wrestling, cards, quoits, and throwing a ball through a ring, which is placed at a great distance off.

THE gentry frequently take the air on horse-back: and the ladies, when obliged to travel, ride on asses; and use, instead of a saddle, a sort of chair, which is very commodious. The principal roads in these islands, are paved with pebble stones of the same-kind, with those used in the streets of London.

THERE are a few chariots in the city of Palmas in Canaria, the town of Santa Cruz, and the city of Laguna in Tenerife; but they are kept more for shew than utility, for the roads here are steep and rocky, and therefore unfit for wheel-carriages: they are all drawn by mules.

THE peasants, especially those of Gome-ra, have an art of leaping from rock to rock, when they travel: the method is this: a man carries a long pole or staff, with an iron spike at the end of it; and when he wants to descend from one rock to another, he aims the point of his pole at the place where he intends to light, throws himself towards it, and pitches the end of the pole so as to bring it to a perpendicular, and then slides down gently upon it to the ground.

THE English and other foreigners in the Canary Islands, complain much of the want of good physicians and surgeons, and not without cause; for what other reason can be assigned for the natives being so over-run with the  
itch

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itch and venereal disorders, which might be so easily eradicated?

THE diseases most predominant here, besides the above mentioned, are the Tabardilla, or spotted fever; and the Flatos, a windy disorder affecting the bowels, stomach, and head. The palsy is frequent here, and prevails mostly among the aged. The ague is a disorder peculiar to the island of Gomera, for it is scarcely known in the other islands. A few of the natives are afflicted with the leprosy: as it is reckoned incurable, there is an hospital at Gran Canaria, set apart for the reception of the unhappy sufferers by that loathsome distemper. The moment a man of fortune is adjudged to be a leper, his whole effects are seized for the use of the hospital, without leaving any part for the support of his family: but poor people who are infected with this disorder, are left to subsist the best way they can, or perish in the streets. The Directors of the hospital are the sole judges of the leprosy, from whose determination there is no appeal.

THE children here are taught in the convents reading, writing, Latin, arithmetic, logic, and some other branches of philosophy. Greek is never learned here, not even by the students in divinity. The Latin authors which scholars read are the classics.

HAPPENING to be in company with one of the most learned students of all the islands, he examined me particularly concerning the state of learning in England, and what branch of it was most in esteem there: after satisfying him in those particulars, I enquired in my turn

what studies prevailed in these islands ; he replied, that jurisprudence and logic were those most esteemed, but chiefly the latter, which was his favourite study. When he found I had not learned it, he reprimanded me for want of taste, and informed me that my countryman Duns Scotus was the best logician that ever the world produced.

THE natives of the Canary Islands have a genius for poetry, and compose verses of different measures, which they set to music. I have seen some songs there, which would be greatly esteemed in any country, where a taste for poetry prevails. I once had in my possession some satirical verses, composed by the Marquis de San André, of Tenerife, which were most excellent, and inferior to none I have yet seen, although he was no less than seventy-five years of age when he wrote them.

THE books most commonly read by the laity, are the lives of saints and martyrs. These performances are stuffed with legends and curious fables. Thomas à Kempis and the Devout Pilgrim are in every library here, and are much admired. The first of these is so well known in England, that I have no occasion to say any more of it. The Devout Pilgrim is a description of a journey to the Holy Land, with an account of every thing there worthy of a pilgrim's notice ; to which are added particular instructions and advice to those who undertake that journey. As our Methodists and other religious sects in England look on the Roman Catholics, as a people void of such sort of piety as they value themselves upon,



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upon, and of which they make their boast, although it consists in nothing else than high-sounding words; I say, because they despise the Roman Catholics, let them read the following extract from the Devout Pilgrim:

OUR author having given directions to those who may be desirous to undertake a journey to the Holy Land, sets the example of two pilgrims before their eyes, which, says he, you ought to copy. " One of these pilgrims, " after having visited the greater part of the " holy places, came to the most holy mount " of Calvary. Seeing himself in that most " precious and holy place, with a most fervent " and compassionate love, beheld and contemplated Christ our Redeemer, fastened and " hanging on the cross, shedding his blood " through the five divine fountains of feet, " hands, and side, his whole body wounded, and " his divine head crowned with thorns, and reclining in the same posture it was in, when " he said, It is finished: with copious tears " and contrition for his sins, he greatly bemoaned himself to see God and Man dying " for him, and said, My God and my Lord " Jesus, sovereign of my soul, for what should " I desire to see any thing more in this world? " Lord, I beseech thee, that since thou hast " done me this favour, and thought me worthy to come to this most holy place, where " thou gavest thy most holy life for me; may " it seem good unto thee, that I give mine in " this same place, for thee. Then saying, " with St. Paul, these words, ' To me to live " is Christ,' he expired, and his soul was car-

“ried to heaven. Happy pilgrim, and blessed soul!”

SOME years ago, a book, intituled, *The History of the People of God*, was translated into Spanish from the French or Italian, being something of the nature of our *Histories of the Bible*, or *Josephus's Antiquities of the Jews*. This book was in almost every gentleman's house in the Canary Islands, and was frequently the subject of conversation among the clergy and laity; but it has lately been condemned at Rome, and all the copies here were seized soon after by the Inquisition.

FEW profane books are read here, because they cannot be imported into the islands, without being first examined by the Holy Office, a court with which no body chooses to have any transactions; yet here and there one meets with some of those excellent books, which were wrote by authors who flourished in Spain, after the civil wars in that kingdom ceased on the conquest of Granada, and before the Inquisition arrived at its highest pitch of authority; for when that tribunal was firmly established, learning withdrew from Spain and settled in other countries. *The History of the Wars in Granada* is in every body's hands here, and is read by all ranks of people. Plays are not wanting in these islands, most of which are very good; for the Spaniards have succeeded better in dramatic performances, than any other Europeans. Among many other authors of that kind, these are the most celebrated, *Juan de Matos Fragofo*, *Joseph Canizarez*, *Augustin de Salazar*, *Luis Velez de Guevara*, *Antonio Solis*, *Augustin Mereto*, *Pedro Calderon*,

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deron, and Lopez de Vega Carpio: but of all these Don Pedro Calderon is most esteemed by the Spaniards; and not without reason, for his plays are inferior to none that have yet appeared on any stage in Europe. Lopez de Vega Carpio has been by many justly compared to our Shakespear: it was from one of his plays, called *Los Benavides*, that the famous Cid of Corneille was planned; this will evidently appear, when these performances are compared together, and it will be hard to determine which of the two is the most excellent.

LOPEZ DE VEGA's dramatic writings are extremely scarce, and difficult to be got even in Spain: for this reason, and because the English reader's curiosity may be excited by hearing him compared to Shakespear, I shall here give a specimen of his dramatic performances, out of one of them called *El Mayoralazgo Dudoso*. Lisardo, Prince of Scotland, having seen a portrait of the Princess of Dalmatia, determines to see her; and for that purpose travels to that country in disguise: he finds means to be employed as a gardener in the King of Dalmatia's garden, where he became intimate with the Princess: the result of this was that she bore a son, which was committed to the charge of a gentleman named Albano. The King hearing of his daughter's dishonour, is greatly enraged, confines her in a nunnery, and Lisardo in a prison, where he intends to keep him for life; and causes diligent search to be made after the child, in order to destroy it. Albano, in endeavouring to save the child, is taken with it in his arms by a

party of Moors, who were making a descent on the coast: they carry their captives to Barbary, where Luzman, the child, is educated in the Mahommedan faith, and becomes a great man in that country. Albano, who continued a slave from the day of his captivity, finds means to acquaint Luzman with the circumstances of his birth, and exhorts him to return to Dalmatia, and become a Christian: he complies; and, under pretence of making a descent on the coast of Dalmatia, to distress the Christians, he and Albano give the Moors the slip, and repair to court; where Luzman, without discovering himself, procured leave from the King to visit Lisardo, his father, who had been confined twenty years in prison. It was necessary to relate this much, in order that the reader may comprehend the following scene.

*Scene*



*Sale Lifardo, con barba, y prisiones.*

*Lifardo.* En competencia el Tibre, el Ebreo, el Tajo,

Vengo en llorar, y ami favor conuenço,  
Quando a pensar en mi prision comienço,  
Imitando de Sifiso el trabajo.

Al mismo infierno imaginando baxo,  
La historia de que tanto me averguenço,  
Tanto que en llanto a Filomena venço.  
Y en soledad la tortola aventajo.

Veynte vezes el sol de lirios de oro  
Al argentado pez bordo la escama  
Desde que vi del mundo los engaños.  
Y otros tantos ha que en prision lloro  
La vida ques es la puerta de la fama,  
Cansado de viuir tan largos anos.

*Albano, y Luzman dentro.*

*Albano.* Ya han abierto el aposento.

*Luzman.* Albano aguardame aqui.

*Lif.* Que ruydo es este? ay de mi,

Que sospechas pensamiento?

Puerta que jamas se abrio

Se abre agora, Dios me valga,

Si es para que el alma salga.

Que albricias le dare yo?

Alegraos cansada vida,

Sufrimiento humilde y baxo,

Que ya se acaba el trabajo,

Y os da la muerte acogina.

Como



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*Enter Lifardo, with a long beard, and in habit of a prisoner.*

*Lif.* The rapid Tyber may forget to run,  
The streams of Ebro and the Tagus fail,  
But not my ever-swelling tide of grief.  
Not Sisyphus, with his recoiling stone,  
Can equal my fatigue, when thought on thought,  
Press'd onward by my hard captivity,  
Spends useless force like waves against the strand.  
The rueful story, that involves my soul  
In such a gulph of shame, like hell appears.  
The turtle's solitude is not like mine;  
My mourning's sadder far than Philomel's.  
The sun with golden lilies, twenty times  
The zodiac-fish's silver scales has crown'd,  
Since I last saw the world's deceit and vanity.  
But oft'ner far have I in prison mourn'd  
That life, which is the gate of fame, with-held;  
Wearied in drawing out so many useless years.

*Albano and Luzman without.*

*Alb.* See, now they ope the door!

*Luz.* Stay for me here, Albano.

*Lif.* What noise is this? ah! what suspicious thought?

The door that never open'd, opens now!

Assist me, gracious heav'n!—That op'ning door!

Speaks it th'approaching egress of the soul?

Oh what reward then shall I give? Rejoice,

O wearied life, with suff'ring long abas'd,

That now the toil is ended. See! at last,

They deign to grant the long long wish'd-for death.

Como labrador descanso,  
 Y al jornal Rey me embia,  
 Porque llegò el fin del dia,  
 Y de la noche el descanso.  
 Paciencia, sufrir, ya es hecho  
 Porque abrirse aquella puerta  
 Es tomar medida cierta  
 De la que han de hazer al pecho.  
 Abrilda, que ya mis labios  
 Para el alma se abriràn.  
 Valgame Dios que saldràn  
 De paciencias, y de agravios,  
 Si teneys por cosa cierta  
 Que tan grandes los sufri,  
 Tiranos matadme aqui,  
 Que no cabran por la puerta.  
 Sacad el cuerpo afligido,  
 Flaco, encanecido, elado,  
 Deste Iosef empozado  
 Veyntes anos a ser vendido.

*Sale Luzman.*

*Luz.* Principe guardete el cielo,  
 Que miras embelesado?  
*Lif.* El abito me ha espantado.  
 Y el verte me da consuelo.  
 Anda ya la gente affi?  
 Que ha veynte anos que aqui entre  
 Y puede ser que affi este,  
 Porque nunca a nadie vi.  
 Si el tiempo mudable ha sido,

Atribuyasse

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As to the weary lab'rer soothing rest,  
And as the sweet-earn'd hire, the King bestows  
This gracious boon: for now the day is gone,  
The welcome time of night's repose is come.  
—Patience! To suffer now is certain\*—That  
door,

Long shut, is op'ning for concerting measures  
For the last office on my panting breast.

And let it open—that my eager lips  
May also open for my quiv'ring soul  
A passage. Help me, heav'n! How many  
griefs

And tamely suffer'd wrongs will now get vent!  
My wrongs how many, could you under-  
stand,

Tyrants, you'd kill me here.—The door's too  
narrow

To let them out.—But haste you, come, draw  
forth

Th'afflicted body, lean, grey-hair'd, and frozen,  
Of this endungeon'd Joseph, sold for twenty  
years.

*Enter Luzman, habited as a Moor.*

*Luz.* Heav'n guard you, Prince! Why look  
you so surpriz'd?

*Lif.* The habit has surpriz'd me; but the  
sight

Of you gives joy.—Is that the fashion now?  
It may be so. For, since within these walls  
I enter'd, since a human face I've seen  
Full twenty years have pass'd. Has time pro-  
duc'd

\* Or thus: —Patience to suffer! Now 'tis done—  
That door,

This

Atribuyasse a su nombre,  
 Que yo tambien era hombre,  
 Y en piedra me he convertido.  
 Aunque no lo soy contigo,  
 Pues hablo contigo y lloro.

*Luz.* Y tu no ves que soy Moro?

*Lis.* Por esso lo digo amigo,  
 Y pues verdades no callo,  
 Aunque de Christiana ley,  
 En tierra que es Moro el Rey,  
 Tambien lo sera el vassallo.

*Luz.* El que es por sus obras ruyn  
 Moro Principe sera.

*Lis.* Principe me llamas ya,  
 Mas justo es llamar me sin.  
 Dios sabe que lo desseo.

Lloras, luego dessa suerte  
 La sentenciã de mi muerte  
 Cierta en tus ojos la veo.

Pero dime, como a un Moro  
 Le entregran la execucion?

*Luz.* Oye hasta el fin mi razon,  
 Y entenderas porque lloro.

Yo soy un Moro de Oran  
 Dueno de un Christiano esclavo,  
 Que nacio en esta ciudad,  
 El qual fue su nombre Albano.  
 Cautivole el padre mio,  
 Con un infante en los braços  
 Que segun del viejo supe,  
 Era tu hijo Lisardo.  
 El qual vive en el servicio,  
 Del Turco Zayde Otomano,  
 Tan privado, que le ha hecho  
 Rey de Oran, sin otros cargos.

THE CANARY ISLANDS. 157

This change? It might.—All things are  
chang'd by time.

I too was once a man, but length of time  
Has chang'd me into stone, tho' not to you  
Who hear me speak, and see me melting into  
tears.

*Luz.* See'st thou not I'm a Moor?

*Lif.* Friend, that I have in view;  
And, as I scorn to hide the truth—I deem  
That vassals, ev'n within a Christian land,  
Will to their Prince conform, when he's a  
Moor.

*Luz.* The man abandon'd for his evil deeds,  
O prince, shall be a Moor.

*Lif.* Prince call'st thou me?  
A victim, rather say, as good as dead:  
Heav'n knows I long to be so.—Ha! dost thou  
weep?

—Bewailest so the sentence of my death?  
I see't for certain in your eyes.—But say,  
Why of my execution was the charge  
Given to a Moor?

*Luz.* Pray hear my tale complete:  
Then of my tears the secret source you'll trace.  
—Of Oran I'm a Moor; to me belongs  
A Christian slave, known by the name Albano:  
Him captive, with an infant in his arms,  
My father took. That child (so said th' old  
man),

Lisardo, was thy son; and now he owns  
The mighty Turk Zayde Othman for his lord:  
Who, bearing him the most entire affection,  
Has rais'd to many honours, and has made  
Him King of Oran.—But th' illustrious youth  
Was

No sabia el moço illustre  
 Su origen famoso, y claro,  
 Hasta que pudo aquel viejo  
 Hablarle, y dezirle el caso.  
 Viendose Rey, y tu hijo,  
 Quiso bolverse Christiano,  
 Y sacarte de prision,  
 Vengando tu injusto agravio.  
 Para que sepas que viene,  
 Me nombro con otros quatro.  
 Y porque esperes su ayuda,  
 Que su flota queda armando.  
 En que presto las orillas  
 Del seno y mar Africano  
 Coronara de galeras,  
 Municiones y foldados.  
 Que sus vanderas azules.  
 Vi yo quedar tremolando.  
 Con tu imagen en prisiones,  
 Y un sol esparziendo rayos.  
 En Aravigo una letra,  
 Cerca las orlas y cabos,  
 Diciendo, " Tarde amanece  
 Pero dara luz temprano."  
 Porque el Rey dieffe licencia  
 Para verte aprisionado,  
 Un gran presente le embia  
 Carta, y pazes, todo falso.  
 Truximos le diez camellos,  
 Con cien alfombras cargados,  
 Quatro elefantes famosos,  
 Con quatro negros Indianos,  
 Muchas aromas, y olores,  
 Diez Berberiscos cavallos,  
 Atados a los arçones,  
 Carcaxes, flechas, y arcos.

[Llora.

Movido



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Was to his origin, renown'd and high,  
A stranger, till th' old man found means to  
give him

Of's birth and early years the full detail.

—Now King of Oran, and thy son confess'd,  
He long'd to be a Christian, long'd to free  
His sire from prison, and avenge his wrongs.

To give you early news of his approach,  
He me with four commission'd : nay,  
To make you doubtless of his sudden aid,  
We left his fleet equipping. Be assur'd,  
The azure waves that wash wide Afric's coast  
Shall with his gallies, men, and warlike  
stores

[*He weeps.*]

Be quickly crown'd. I saw his ensigns blue  
High waving in the wind ; upon them stamp'd  
Thy image, as in prison, and a sun  
Diffusing glorious rays ; the motto ran  
In Arabic, " Late dawning, but will soon  
give light."

That leave to see thee here, we might obtain  
A princely gift, with letters of feign'd peace,  
Now to the King thy son hath sent with us.  
Ten camels have we brought, of tapestry  
An hundred loads, four elephants renown'd,  
Four Indian Blacks, of spiceries and perfumes  
A wealthy store, of Barb'ry horses ten,  
With quivers, bows, and arrows well equipp'd.

Mov'd

Movido del gran presente  
 Licencia de verte ha dado,  
 Yo porque supe la lengua  
 Tomè entre todos la mano.  
 Lloro de verte afligido  
 Con prision de tantos anos,  
 Por lo que a Luzman le devo,  
 Y por tu valor Christiano.  
 Espera en Dios que el te libre  
 Porque de su ingenio, y braço  
 Ya lleva la fama nuevas  
 Desde el Oriente al Ocaso.

*Eis.* Que esto pudo merecer  
 Mi paciencia, y sufrimiento,  
 Llorad ojos que no siento  
 Que queda en vos mi plazer.  
 No se quede mi alegria,  
 Sin salir ojos por vos  
 Mas no podra que soys dos,  
 Y por cien mil no podria.  
 Hijo tengo tan honrado  
 Que quiera librarme assi,  
 Oy hijo yo soy por ti,  
 Que no tu de mi engendrado.  
 ○ Albano que cuydoso  
 Quieres heredero darme,  
 Mas como podra heredarme  
 Mayorazgo tan dudoso?  
 Si es mi hijo?

*Luz.* No ha de ser,  
 Si en todo senor te imita,  
 Y tray en su cara escrita  
 Tu imagen, y proceder?  
 Que senas mas ciertas son  
 Que en hablandote esse Albano,

Quiere

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Mov'd with this present, he hath giv'n us leave  
 To pay you here this visit ; and because  
 Among us only I the language knew,  
 I took the lead. But, ah ! the sight of thee,  
 With many years' confinement sore oppress'd,  
 Hath in my heart produc'd the grief you've seen.  
 This heart—by all the ties of duty bound  
 To Luzman,—to thee also, by th' esteem  
 I bear thy worth, O Christian!—Trust in  
 God ;

Thy son will yet deliver thee : his fame  
 For pow'r and wisdom now is spreading fast  
 From east to west.

*Lis.* Amazing ! who'd have thought  
 My patience e'er could merit such a boon !—  
 Weep now, mine eyes, and send forth streams  
 of joy,

No more of grief.—My joy now only lives,  
 While streaming freely thro' your two canals :  
 —But what are two, where thousands can't  
 suffice ?

And have I then so honourable a son,  
 Who thus would save me ?—O my son ! to-day  
 I am of thee, not thou of me, begotten !  
 —How careful, O Albano ! hast thou been  
 To bless me with an heir !—But tell me how  
 An heir so doubtful can be my successor,  
 If yet he be my son ?

*Luz.* Sir, must he not,  
 If, written in his face, thy mien and features  
 He bears ; nay, if, in all things, he's thy like-  
 ness ?

What surer signs than—what I now assert,  
 That this Albano hastes, in solemn form,  
 T' assume

Quiere bolverse Christiano,  
Y sacarte de prision?

*Lif.* Bien dizes, mi hijo es,  
Que el alma lo dize assi,  
Agora me libre a mi,  
Y engendrarele despues.  
Come dizes que se llama?

*Luz.* Luzman.

*Lif.* Dies le de su luz,  
Conoce a Dios?

*Luz.* Con su cruz  
Tiernas lagrimas derrama.  
Ya esta diestro en vuestra ley.

*Lif.* Que talle tiene?

*Luz.* Esto mio.

*Lif.* No tienes Moro mal brio.

*Luz.* Que te imito dize el Rey.

*Lif.* Agora?

*Luz.* No quando moço,  
Ves este cuerpo, esta cara,  
Pues por retrato bastara.

*Lif.* En verte me alegro, y gozo.  
Honrada presencia tienes,  
Eres noble?

*Luz.* Como aquel  
De quien soy hijo, si del  
A tener noticia vienes.

*Lif.* No se que he mirado en tí,  
Y assi una prueba hare yo,

De

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T' assume the Christian name, and from your  
dungeon

To set you free.

*Lif.* — I've done.— You reason well;  
He is my son—so says my very soul.

Set me but free now—soon I'll make him out  
My son \*. Pray, by what name's he known ?

*Luz.* Luzman's his name.

*Lif.* God grant him light †, and verify his  
name.

—But knows he God ?

*Luz.* Now on his Cross intent,  
He sheds the tender tear ; yea, in your law  
He's now expert.

*Lif.* But say, what like's his person ?

*Luz.* His person is like mine.

*Lif.* Moor, thou hast not  
A bad presence.

*Luz.* Like thine, the King avers.

*Lif.* Like mine at present ?

*Luz.* Nay, when thou wast young.

—This countenance, this person you behold,  
For th' out-lines of a portrait may suffice.

*Lif.* Beholding you, I feel uncommon joy.—  
Your presence is endearing—are you noble ?

*Luz.* Noble, you'll own, as he whose son I  
am,

If once you knew him.

*Lif.* I've beheld in thee  
Somewhat I can't describe—but now I'll have it

\* The sense here is somewhat dubious.

† Luz, in Spanish, signifies Light.

De que viendo al que le hirio,  
 Rebienta la sangre alli.  
 Arrimarete a mi pecho,  
 A ver la sangre que haze,  
 Abraçame.

*Luz.* Que me plaze.

*Lif.* Ay hijo, la prueba has hecho.

*Luz.* Que dizes ?

*Lif.* Que en abraçarte

Sintieron la alteracion

La sangre, y el coraçon,

Recogidos a una parte.

Perdona que ser podria,

Que huvieffe hecho este efeto

Su imaginado conceto,

En el alma y fantasia.

Si era el coraçon yman,

Ve el alma, o qual mas quisieres,

Como a ti sino lo eres,

Como a su centro se van ?

Quando una llave se pierde,

Que assi lo pienso dezir,

No ay llave que para abrir

Con la perdida concuerde.

Y pues la tuya me dio

Golpe al alma tan suave,

Sin duda que eres la llave,

Que un tiempo el alma perdio.

De lo que niegas me quexo,

Que el no aver espejo aqui,

Y veo mi espejo en ti,

Es senal que eres mi espejo,

Quando el retrato pequeno

A su original parece,

Es quando alegria ofrece



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Put to the proof. My sympathetic part,  
When touch'd, will cause the kindred blood  
to rush.

I'll press you to my heart, and then observe  
What course the blood will take. Embrace  
me now.

*Luz.* Your will be done. [*They embrace.*]

*Lif.* Ha! you've prov'd it, son.

*Luz.* What have I prov'd?

*Lif.* That, in embracing thee,  
The heart and blood the kindred bias took,  
And forward fondly rush'd.—Yet ah! forgive  
me;

Perhaps some vain conceit, by fancy's pow'r  
Moving the soul, might this effect produce.  
—Yet if the heart with justice may be nam'd  
The loadstone of the soul and its affections,  
The proof's still fair: for how else should my  
soul

Straight to thy heart, as to its center, run?  
If the true key be lost (indulge the thought)  
In vain you seek to open with another.  
Since on my soul your heart made such im-  
pression,

You doubtless are the key that's long been lost.

This you deny, and that makes me complain:  
For here no polish'd mirror I possess,  
My image to reflect, 'Tis then a sign  
That thou art my reflector, when I see  
Myself in thee. The likeness then is good,  
When to the owner's eyes it gives delight.  
Since, in this dark abyss of pain and woe,  
Thou'st bright'ned so mine eyes, what surer  
proof

That thou art clearly my reflected self?  
Hadst thou not got thy blood from me, it ne'er  
Had

A los ojos de lo dueño.  
 Y pues en aquel abismo  
 De escuridad, pena, y llanto,  
 Los mios se alegran tanto  
 Es senal que eres yo mismo.

Si essa sangre no te diera,  
 No me lo dixera aqui  
 Otra que yo te verti,  
 Como a su centro y esfera.

Y a resolverme al fin vengo,  
 Puesto que negarlo quieres,  
 Que si mi hijo no eres  
 No es possible que lo tengo.

*Luz.* Mucho señor te ha movido  
 Esse hijo imaginado,  
 De quien yo he sido traslado,  
 Si el original no he sido.

Y aunque no se si eres padre,  
 Por ser tu padre dudoso  
 De aquel hijo venturoso  
 De tan desdichada madre.

El esta aqui con Albano,  
 Y el Rey sin saber quien es,  
 Ni que trae mas interes,  
 Que solo hazerse Christiano,

Hijo le llama, y le sienta  
 A su mesa, y a su lado,  
 Y de su imperio y estado  
 Hazerle heredero intenta.

Albano es governador  
 Del Reyno, aunque el Rey no sabe  
 Quien es.

*Lis.* En Albano cabe  
 Mayor grandeza y honor.  
 Mas di amigo, que el Rey quiere

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Had told me so—yea that from me thou didst  
Proceed, as from thy center and thy sphere.

I'm now at last resolv'd—If to deny  
Yourself to be my son you still persist,  
'Tis plain I have no son—impossible I should.

*Luz.* With this imaginary son, whose place  
I'm thought to fill, you've got no small concern.  
—Tho' I'm not certain if you are the father,  
Because you doubt—yet, if I'm not th' original  
Of that blest son of an unhappy mother,  
He's here then with Albano : and the King,  
Not knowing who he is, or that he comes  
With other purpose than to turn a Christian,  
Calls him his son, and honours him as such  
At his own table, next himself to sit.  
He likewise of his crown and wide domain  
Hath destin'd him the heir. Albano too,  
Altho' the King yet knows not who he is,  
O'er all his kingdom Governor is made.

*Lif.* Increase of pow'r and grandeur ever  
may  
Albano find!—But say, friend, will the King,  
Not

Sin ver que su nieto sea,  
Hazer que el Reyno posea?

*Luz.* Y que haro quando lo hiziere?

*Lis.* Mucho, no sabiendo el cuento,  
Cosas son que ordena Dios.

*Luz.* Muy presto os vereys los dos  
Con mucho gusto, y contento.

Y porque passa la hora,  
Dad licencia, y otro dia  
Tenerla senor querria  
Para veros como agora.

Que dire a Luzman?

*Lis.* Amigo,  
Dile que su padre soy,  
Y estas lagrimas te doy  
Que le lleves por testigo.

Dile que averle engendrado  
Me cuesta aquesta prision,  
Que pague esta obligacion,  
Pues es de plazo pasado,

Y aquesta abraço le da.

*Luz.* Padre mio ya rebiento,  
Yrme es possible? que intento  
Sin que me conozcas ya?

Dame esos pies, pues es llano  
Padre que mis yerros son,  
Merezca tu benedicion,  
Pues me engendrastе Christiano.

Las lagrimas abrasadas  
Deten que darme querias,  
Y recibe aquestas mias  
Dessa tu sangre engendradas,

Un rio pueden formar  
Las que a tus plantas embio,  
Y sin duda que soy rio  
Que ha nacido, y buelvo al mar.

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Not knowing Luzman for his grand-son, grant  
Him to possess the kingdom?

*Luz.* Tho' he should,  
What great thing would he do?

*Lif.* Oft times, indeed,  
Men, undesigning, heav'n's designs fulfil!

*Luz.* Soon shall you see them both to full  
content.—

But now the time is gone—Pray, give me  
leave—

Another day I quickly shall procure  
Another licence to repeat my visit—

What shall I say to Luzman?

*Lif.* Tell him, friend,  
I am his father—and these tears I give you—  
That you may bear them to him as a token.—  
Tell him—to've been his father, cost me this  
distress!

Yet say, his filial debt's repaid: for now  
His term of sonship's past.—Take also this em-  
brace

And bear—

*Luz.* My father! now I'm overwhelm'd!  
—To go, impossible! What shall I think—  
But that you know me now?—Clasp me be-  
tween

These knees, surely they are my native chains.  
Behold, O Christian! thy own son implores  
A father's blessing—These burning tears  
Restrain, I pray—and rather mine receive.  
My tears, engender'd from your blood, I'll  
pour

Upon thy feet, until they form a river.—  
Yea doubtless I'm the river once rais'd from,  
And now returning to its native sea.

Ah! that such dismal twenty years you've spent!

Que veynte anos has vivido  
En la prision que has passado ?  
No respondes padre amado ?  
No hablas padre querido ?

Fuera mas justa razon,  
Que yo en naciendo muriera,  
Pues si mas tiempo viviera  
Mas durata tu prision ?

Padre no puedes hablar ?  
Sin duda el alma que viene  
Con la boz, la boz detiene  
Por salir y por entrar.

Padre que leon ha sido  
En engendrarme, no ve  
Que no refucitare  
Si me niega su bramido ?

El ha perdido el hablar,  
Porque el gusto de un plazer  
Mayor dano puede hazer  
Que la fuerça de un pesar.

Quiero llevarle a su cama,  
Para ver si buelve en si,  
Mi padre arrimate a mi,  
Arbol conoce tu rama.

Padre aunque has sido Teseo  
Del laberinto en que estoy,  
Eneas piadoso soy  
Sacarte en ombros desseo.



## THE CANARY ISLANDS. 171

Father belov'd! reply'st thou not to me?  
No words at all, dear fire? Oh had I rather  
Dy'd at my birth, than you had suffer'd thus!  
Father, is thy voice gone? Doubtless the soul  
That enters with the voice, arrests its pow'rs.  
O fire! the noble lion who begat me,  
Seest thou not me too impotent to rise,  
Till I be rous'd by thy parental voice?  
Ah! speechless still!—The shock of sudden joy  
Is oft more pow'rful to o'erwhelm the soul,  
Than ev'n a load of grief.—him to his bed  
I'll bear—perhaps his spirit will revive—  
My father, cling to me——know, honour'd  
tree,  
'Tis thy own branch supports thee.——O my  
father!

Thou of the lab'rinth wherein I'm involv'd,  
Hast been the Theseus, yet I'm proud to be  
Pious Æneas, to bear you on my shoulders.

## C H A P. XVII.

*An Account of the Commerce of Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, and Hierro; and the Manufactures in these Islands.*

**I**N order to give a distinct and clear idea of the trade of these islands, I shall divide it into the four following heads, and treat of each separately and in order.

THE trade to Europe and the English colonies in America.

THE trade to the Spanish West Indies.

THE trade which is carried on from one island to another.

AND, lastly, The fishery on the coast of Barbary, adjacent to the islands.

GOMERA and Hierro are so poor that no ships go to them from Europe or America; nor are the inhabitants of these two islands allowed any share of the Spanish West India commerce, because they are not so entirely under the jurisdiction of the crown of Spain as Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma, having a lord or proprietor of their own, viz. the Count of Gomera. But it would be well for them if they were entirely subject to, and dependent on the crown; for never did the proverb, which says, "The King's chaff is better than other people's corn," hold so true in any case as in this.

TENE-

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TENERIFE is the center of the trade to Europe and the British colonies in America; a few ships from these parts of the world go to Canaria and Palma, but they are not to be compared to the numbers that arrive at Tenerife. This branch of traffick is almost wholly carried on in foreign bottoms, especially in English, the natives themselves being afraid to sail on those seas, where they may be in danger of being taken by the corsairs of Algiers, Sallee, and other ports of Barbary.

THE greatest part of the aforesaid trade to Europe and the English colonies is in the hands of the Irish Roman Catholic merchants settled in Tenerife, Canaria, and Palma, and the descendants of the Irish who formerly settled there and married Spanish wives; but in the last age that trade was engrossed by a factory of Protestant English merchants who resided at Tenerife: no Protestants remain there now, nor in any of the rest of the Canary Islands, excepting the English and Dutch Consuls and two merchants, who all reside at Tenerife.

THE imports here from Great Britain consist chiefly of woollen goods of various kinds, hats, hard-ware, pilchards, red-herrings, wheat when it is scarce in the islands, with a number of other articles which would be too tedious to specify.

THE imports from Ireland are chiefly beef, pork, butter, candles, and salt-herrings.

FROM Hamburg and Holland, linens of all sorts are imported, to a very great amount; cordage, gun-powder, and coarse flax, with many other kinds of goods.

FROM Biscay, a considerable quantity of bar-iron is annually imported.

THE imports from Seville, Cadiz, Barcelona, Italy, and Majorca are chiefly oil, silks, velvets, salt, and cordage made of bals or spartum, with innumerable little articles for the Canary inland consumption, and for exportation from these islands to the Spanish West Indies. Almost the whole of this trade is carried on in French and Maltese tartans. The Maltese vessels, before they go to the Canary Islands, make the tour of all the European harbours in the Mediterranean situated to the westward of Malta, trading from one port to another; and from the Mediterranean they go to Cadiz, and from thence to the Canary Islands; where besides the commodities of Spain, France, Italy, &c. the Maltese vend the cotton manufactures of their own island; all cottons imported into the Canary Islands, excepting those from Malta, pay such a heavy duty as almost amounts to a prohibition: the Maltese enjoy this privilege on account of their maintaining a perpetual war against the Turks and moors.

THE inhabitants of the Canaries import a few linens from Britany and Normandy.

FROM the British colonies in America they import deal boards, pipe-staves, baccallao or dried cod, and beef, pork, hams, bees wax, rice, &c. and in times of scarcity of corn, when the crops fail in the islands, maize, wheat, and flour.

THE exports from these islands are as follow:

To

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To Great Britain and Ireland, orchilla-weed, a few wines, some Campeachy logwood, and a considerable quantity of Mexican dollars.

To Hamburgh and Holland, ditto; but a greater quantity of dollars, and little or no orchilla-weed.

To Spain, Marseilles, Italy, and Malta, commodities which they receive from the Spanish West Indies, particularly sugar, cocoa, hides, Campeachy logwood, dollars, and some orchilla-weed.

To the British colonies in America, a great quantity of wines, and nothing else.

ALL these goods imported into the Canary Islands, or exported from them, pay a duty of seven per cent. on the rated value.

THE commerce between the Canary Islands and the Spanish settlements in the West Indies, is under certain regulations and restrictions. In the city of St. Christobal de la Laguna, there is a Judge, Secretary and other ministers, who manage every thing relative to that trade.

No foreigners are permitted to share in this commerce, nor are any ships suffered to go to the ports of the Spanish West Indies, from any of the islands, except Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma.

THE Court of Spain has restricted the Canary Island West India commerce to the ports of Havanna, Campeachy, and La Guaira on the coast of Carraccas; St. Domingo, Porto Rico, and Maracaiva; the three first are called the Greater Ports, and the others the Lesser, because the trade of the Lesser Ports is

trifling in comparison with that of the Greater.

BEFORE a ship loads for any of these ports, she must obtain a licence from the Judge of the India trade, which is generally granted, if it is her turn, for by the regulations, all shipping are registered, and must take their turns; but here, as in many other places, interest and money often prevail against justice.

THE trade of the Canary Islands to the Spanish West Indies is confined to their own produce, viz. wines, brandy, almonds, raisins, figs, &c. of which they can send annually one thousand tons; and are only allowed besides, what they call a General, for each ship, which consists of every kind of goods which is thought necessary for the vessel, crew, and passengers use during the course of the voyage, and is more or less extensive in proportion to the size of the ship, for which it is granted by the Judge or Superintendant of the West India trade. Thus far they are restricted by the rules; but ways and means are found to extend their trade to that quarter of the world far beyond them; for I suppose they export at least two thousand tons of the produce of the islands, besides immense quantities of European commodities.

ALTHOUGH some of the Canary West India ships load at Canaria and Palma, and proceed from thence to the West Indies, yet they are all obliged to finish their voyages at Santa Cruz in Tenerife (where the officers deputed by the Judge of the Indies reside), and there land their cargoes, which consist of the commodities of the West India ports from whence they



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they come, being chiefly cocoa, logwood, hides, sugar, and Mexican dollars; but cochineal and indigo are prohibited from being landed at Tenerife; the silver they bring, is also limited to fifty Mexican dollars per ton, according to the registered tonnage; yet I have known some of these ships bring home to Tenerife one hundred thousand dollars. Formerly wine, brandy, and fruit only were reckoned the produce of these islands; but now the manufactures of them go to the Spanish West Indies under that denomination.

THE exports from the Canaries to these countries, with the returns, are all rated, and pay certain duties, which the officers of the West India commerce collect, and remit to those of the India House in Spain.

THE merchants of Cadiz are very jealous of the Canary West India trade, and are continually making application to the Court of Madrid to abridge it; but their attempts have hitherto proved abortive; although they have caused Intendants to be sent over to Tenerife to inspect into that commerce, and oblige the islanders to keep within the limits prescribed to it by the court.

NUMBERS of the islanders go over to the West Indies, to push their fortunes, the greater part of whom marry and settle there. The King of Spain encourages this migration, for he obliges every ship which sails from these islands to his American dominions, to carry a certain number of poor families, upon their demanding a passage, for which the Captain is paid so much per head by the government. The intention of this encouragement is to in-

crease the number of Spaniards in the wide and almost uninhabited provinces of the Spanish West Indies.

THE Indians of that country, with the mingled race begot between them and the Spaniards, are never permitted to fill any office, civil, military, or ecclesiastic; these employments are generally given to people from Spain and the Canary Islands. As many of them, when they arrive in that plentiful country, are mere clowns, and are unaccustomed to live in affluence and without hard labour, they are soon puffed up with their sudden change of fortune, and the great respect paid them by the natives.

I AM told that some waggish Indians of some repute and consequence in America, when they see these awkward clowns from the Canaries land in their country, call to them in the same manner as they call their fowls, when they are going to give them a handful of corn, and say, "To-day you are only Juan such-a-one; but take courage, to-morrow you shall be Alcalde, and stiled Seignior Don Juan; for the King lives not for us, but for you." The Indians are seldom out in their prophecy, for it generally happens accordingly. Many young married men go to those ports from the islands, with an intention to get a little money, and return to their families; but they seldom find the way back again, for after they have contracted acquaintance with the gallant ladies of that country, who swim in luxury and pomp, they are ashamed to send to the Canaries for their home-bred rustic wives. Some years ago a young lad went from  
Tenerife

Tenerife to the West Indies, in quest of his father, who had gone to that country to mend his fortune, but had never sent any word to his wife and family. He found him settled at a certain place, in great affluence, and married to a lady of rank and fortune. He made himself known to his father; who, seeing him such a rustic, called to remembrance his former low situation, which so wrought on his mind, that he disowned him, and denied that himself had ever lived in Tenerife. The young man was so struck with this unexpected treatment, that he publicly challenged him, and made known the whole story, to his father's confusion, and the astonishment of all the inhabitants.

MANY soldiers are raised in the Canary Islands, to serve in the garrisons of the West Indies, particularly at the Havanna. The major part of the troops in that place, when taken by the English, consisted of the natives of these islands.

THE ships employed in the Canaria Spanish West India trade, are commonly about two hundred and fifty, or three hundred tons burthen. Some of them are built in the islands, and others at the Havanna or Old Spain. No foreign bottoms can be employed in this trade, which is the reason why freight is so high from the Canaries to the West Indies; for the Canary shipping are so clogged with charges, carry so many useless hands, particularly chaplains, lie so long in the road of Santa Cruz waiting their turns, at a vast expence of anchors and cables, with other tear and wear, that the owners of them cannot afford to take less.

less freight for a pipe of wine, from the Canaries to La Guaira, than ten pounds sterling; yet the run from Tenerife to that port, is before the wind all the way, and is generally performed in less than thirty days: were the islanders permitted to employ English shipping in this trade, they would soon find enough of them to carry their wine at the rate of twenty shillings per pipe.

THE Canary West Indiamen commonly careen and repair in the ports of the West Indies; but in case of springing a leak, or such like accident, while in the road of Santa Cruz, they go to Porto de Naos in Lancerota, and there careen, &c. In the summer season, I have seen some go for that purpose to the harbour of Gomera.

THE third branch of the Canary Island trade, is that which is carried on from one island to another, and is as follows:

CANARIA exports to Tenerife provisions of all sorts, cattle and fowls, coarse woollen blankets, some raw and wrought silk, orchilla-weed, square flags for pavements, filtering stone vessels for purifying water, and some salt, &c. The returns received for these commodities are chiefly cash and other produce of the Spanish West Indies.

PALMA exports to Tenerife sugar, almonds, sweetmeats, boards, pitch, raw silk, and orchilla; and receives in return West-India and European goods.

GOMERA exports to Tenerife much raw silk and some wrought, brandy, cattle, and orchilla-weed; and receives in return West India and European goods.

HIERRO

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HIERRO exports to Tenerife brandy, small cattle, and orchilla-weed.

LANCEROTA and Fuertaventura export a great quantity of corn to Tenerife, orchilla-weed, cattle, and fowls; the returns they receive are generally in European goods and cash, with some wine. The same islands send corn to Palma, for which they receive boards and other timber, sugar, wine, and cash. Lancerota also exports to Tenerife and Palma, salt and some dried fish.

THE vessels employed in this trade are all built in the islands, and run from twenty to fifty tons; the whole number of them I guess to be about twenty-five, each of which, on an average, is navigated by ten hands: the reason why they carry so many, is the great labour that is required in loading and unloading their cargoes.

ALL American and European goods which are transported from island to island, pay the aforementioned duty of seven per cent. if they have been imported into the islands above a certain limited time, which, if I am rightly informed, is two months.

THE last thing relating to the Canary commerce we have to treat of, is the fishery on the coast of Barbary.

THE number of vessels employed in this fishery, amount to about thirty; they are from fifteen to fifty tons burthen; the smallest carry fifteen men, and the largest thirty. They are all built in the islands, and navigated by the natives. Two of these belong to the island of Palma, four to Tenerife, and the rest

to

to Canaria. Porto de Luz, in that island, is the place from whence they sail for the coast.

THE method of fitting out a bark for the fishery is this: the owners, furnish a vessel for the voyage, and put on board her a quantity of salt sufficient to cure the fish, with bread enough to serve the crew the whole voyage. Each man carries his own fishing-tackle, which consists of a few lines, hooks, a little brass wire, a knife for cutting open the fish, and one or two stout fishing-rods. If any of the crew carry wine, brandy, oil, vinegar, pepper, onions, &c. it must be at his own expence, for the owners furnish no provision but bread. The nett sum arising from the sale of the fish, after deducting the expence of the salt and bread before-mentioned, is divided into shares, a certain number of which are allowed to the owners, for their expence in fitting out the vessel; the rest are divided among the crew according to merit: an able fisherman has one share; a boy, landman, or one not experienced in the fishery, half a share, or a quarter, according to his abilities. The patron or master of the bark shares equally with the able fishermen, and the owners allow him also one share out of theirs, for his trouble in taking care of the bark.

THE place on the coast of Barbary where they go to fish, is according to the season of the year. This fishery is bounded on the north by the southern extremity of Mount Atlas, or by the latitude of twenty-nine degrees north; and on the south by Cape Blanco, in the latitude of twenty degrees thirty minutes north: the whole length of the sea-coast  
so



so bounded, is about six hundred miles. In all this extensive tract there is no town, village, or settled habitation; the few wandering Arabs who frequent this part of the world live in tents, and have neither barks, boats, nor canoes: the King of Morocco's cruisers never venture so far to the southward; for were they to attempt such a thing, it is not probable they would be able to find the way back to their own country, so that the Canarians have nothing to fear from that quarter. In the spring season, the fishermen go on the coast to the northward, but in the autumn and winter to the southward; because in the spring the fish frequent the coast to the northward, and afterwards go gradually along the shore to the southward.

THE first thing the fishermen set about when they arrive on the coast, is to catch bait; this is done in the same manner as we do trouts with a fly, only with this difference, that the rod is thrice as thick as ours, and not tapered away so much towards the point. The line is made of six small brass wires, twisted together; the hook is about five inches long, and is not bearded; the shaft is leaded so as to lie horizontally on the surface of the water; and the hook is covered with a fish's skin, except from where it bends, to the point; then getting within a quarter or half a mile of the shore, they carry so much sail as to cause the bark to run at the rate of four miles an hour, when two or three men throw their lines over the stern, and let the hooks drag along the surface of the water: the fish, taking the hooks for small fish, snap at them, and, when hooked,  
the

the fishermen swing them into the barks with their rods. The Canarians call these fish Tassarte: they have no scales, and are shaped like mackerel, but as large as salmon; they are exceeding voracious, and swallow all the hook, notwithstanding its being so large; if it was bearded, there could be no such thing as extracting it without cutting open the fish: I have seen three men in the stern of a bark, catch an hundred and fifty tassarte in half an hour. It sometimes happens that a bark will complete her lading with these fish only. Another sort of fish, which these people call Anhoua, is taken in the same manner; this is something bigger than a large mackerel, and serves as well as the tassarte for bait. There is another sort of bait called Cavallos, or little horse-mackerel, which is shaped like a mackerel, but something more flat and broad; it is about a span long, and is caught with an angling-rod and line, with a very small hook, baited with almost any thing that comes to hand. When a bark has got a sufficient stock of bait, she leaves her boat, with five or six men, near the shore, to catch tassarte and anhoua, and runs out to sea a good distance off, until she gets into fifteen, twenty, thirty, forty, or perhaps fifty or sixty fathoms depth of water, where she anchors, and all the crew heave their lines and hooks overboard, baited with tassarte, anhoua, &c. and fish for Samas, or bream as we call them, and for Cherney, or cod. The lines are all leaded, in order to cause the hooks to sink near to the bottom of the sea, where these fish swim. When a bark is so fortunate as to meet with fine weather,  
and

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and is well provided with bait, she will be able to complete her cargo in four days. This I have often had opportunity to observe. But as the trade or north-east wind commonly blows fresh on that coast, the barks only anchor in the offing about mid-day, when there is a lull between the land and sea-breeze; and when this last-mentioned wind begins to blow fresh, they weigh their anchors, stand in to shore, and come to an anchor in some bay, or under a head-land, and then the crew fall to work, clean and salt the fish which they caught that day: by the time this is done, it is about five or six o'clock in the evening, when they go to dinner or supper, for they make but one meal the whole day, which they cook in the following manner: in every bark the crew has a long flat-stone for a hearth, upon which they kindle a fire, and hang a large kettle over it, in which they boil some fish; they then take a platter, and put some broken biscuit in it, with onions shred small, to this they add some pepper and vinegar, and then pour in the broth of the fish: no sort of soup or broth is more delicious than this. After having eaten of this excellent soup, they finish their meal with roasted fish, for they throw the boiled fish, of which the soup was made, into the sea. Soon after this repast, every man looks about for the most commodious place where to fall asleep, for no bedding are made use of in these vessels. About five or six in the morning they get up, leave the boat near the shore, weigh anchor and stand out to sea as before, and never taste victuals before the same time next evening. No man who  
knows

knows the toil, fatigue, cold, and heat which these fishermen undergo, will ever charge the Spaniards with laziness.

THE method of curing these fish is this: they cut them open, clean and wash them thoroughly, chop off their heads and fins, and pile them up to drain off the water; after which they are salted, and stowed in bulk in the hold. But because they do not, like the French who fish on the banks of Newfoundland, wash their fish a second time and re-salt them, they will not keep above six weeks or two months.

IT is strange to think that the Spaniards should want to share the Newfoundland fishery with the English, when they have one much better at their own doors; I say better, for the weather here, and every thing else, concurs to make it the best fishery in the universe. What can be a stronger proof of this, than the Moors on the continent drying and curing all their fish without salt, or by any other process, than exposing them to the sun-beams? for the pure wholesome air of that climate, and the strong northerly wind which almost constantly prevails on this coast, totally prevents putrefaction, provided the fish are split open, well washed, and exposed to the sun until they are perfectly dry.

As these vessels seldom go to fish on any part of the coast of Barbary to the windward of the islands, and are obliged to ply against the fresh northerly winds, which almost continually prevail there, they are constructed in such a manner that they hold a good wind, as it is termed in the sea-language, being very sharp fore and aft, and full and flat in the middle.

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middle. They are rigged brigantines, and carry a large flying fore-top-sail, but in general no main-top sail, nor stay-sails; they all carry large sprit-sails, but no jibbs. I have known these barks to beat to windward from Cape Blanco to Gran Canaria in twelve days, though the distance is above four hundred miles. Their method of plying to windward is this: they weigh about six or seven o'clock in the morning, and stand off to sea, with the land-wind, until noon, when they put about, and stand in shore, with the sea-breeze; when they come close in with it, they either anchor for the night, or make short tacks until daylight, when they stand out to sea till noon, as before. The difference between the land and sea-breezes on this coast is generally four points, and they both blow a fresh top-sail-gale. When they get ten or fifteen leagues to the windward of Cape Bazador, they stand over for the island of Gran Canaria: if the wind happens then to be at north-east, they fetch the port of Gando, on the south-east part of that island; but if the wind is at north-north-east, they only fetch the calms, into which they push, and there soon find a south-west wind to carry them close to Canaria, from whence the greater part of them go to Santa Cruz and Port Orotava, to discharge their cargoes; the rest go to Palmas, in Canaria, and to Santa Cruz, in the island of Palma. They do not stop at these places to sell the fish, but leave them with their agents, to sell them at leisure and to the best advantage. The common price is three half-pence per pound, of thirty-two ounces, which is the weight here used for flesh  
and

and fish; sometimes they are sold for a penny, and never higher than two pence. The Regidores, or Cavildo, in the islands, always regulate the price.

INSTEAD of encouraging this most useful and profitable branch, the magistrates in these islands take every method to hurt it; for they most impolitically fix a price on the fish, and clog the trade with foolish and unreasonable duties, besides forbidding the fishermen to have any dealings or intercourse with the Moors on the coast where they go to fish; which is a very great hardship on them, as they are often obliged, when they meet with bad weather, to go ashore there for fuel and water. However, they privately correspond with them, to their mutual advantage; for the Canarians give to the inhabitants of the Desert old ropes, which the latter untwist and spin into yarn or twine, for making fishing-nets; they also give them bread, onions, potatoes, and fruits of many kinds: in return for which, the Moors allow them to take wood and water on their coast, whenever they are in want of these most necessary articles, and make them presents of ostrich-eggs and feathers. The inland Moors would punish their poor countrymen, who live on fish by the sea-coast, if they knew of their correspondence with the Canarian fishermen: but this does not prevent that intercourse, as necessity obliges these people, so different from one another, to conform to the laws of nature, however contrary to the precepts of both their religions. But this profitable communication has lately been interrupted, as I shall have occasion



## THE CANARY ISLANDS. 189

caſion to obſerve in the deſcription of that part of Africa.

ALTHOUGH the Canary fiſhermen have frequented this coaſt ever ſince the conqueſt of the iſlands, yet they are entirely ignorant of the inland country, and of the people who dwell there. When I firſt went on that coaſt, I examined the moſt experienced of them concerning an inlet or gulph, named in our maps, and called by the Canary men, Rio del Oro, but could get no ſatisfactory information; ſome told me it ran ſeventy or eighty leagues inland. Being ſurprized that no traveller had given any account of ſuch a noble channel, and imagining that if it was ſo long as they affirmed, ſome trade might be opened in that unknown region, I ſailed, though with difficulty, among the ſands which abound in that gulph, until we got to the further end of the bay, which is no more than ten leagues diſtant from its mouth: we found it to run parallel with the ſea-coaſt, and at no greater diſtance from it than one league: the end of this inlet is within half a mile of the ocean, being parted from it only by a narrow neck of land. I mention this as an inſtance of their ignorance of this country.

THESE barks generally make eight or nine voyages in the ſpace of a year. From the middle of February to the middle of April, they remain at Canary, to careen, repair, &c. becauſe at that ſeaſon of the year, the fiſh are found only to the northward, where the ſhore lies almoſt ſouth-weſt-by-weſt, or weſt-south-weſt, conſequently open and expoſed to the north-weſt winds, which ſometimes blow there  
in

in February, March, and April, and make that part of the coast to be what we call a lee-shore.

WHEN I first frequented the coast of the Desert, the Canary men went no farther to the southward than Cape Barbas, in latitude twenty-two degrees north; but now they go to Cape Blanco, which lies about thirty leagues beyond it. Although the bulk of their cargoes consists of large bream, yet they catch many other sorts, viz. tassarite before-mentioned, a delicious fish which tastes like a very large and fat mackerel, but when dried cannot be distinguished from dried salmon. The cod caught here is better than those of Newfoundland: the anhoua is exceeding good: the corbino is a large fish, weighing about thirty pounds. There are besides these a number of flat fish, with many other sorts, which I cannot describe.

ALTHOUGH this fishery is capable of the greatest improvement, yet the English have no reason to be apprehensive of the Spaniards ever being able to bring it to any degree of perfection, so as to rival them in the Spanish and Italian markets: the power of the clergy in Spain, is a better security to the English against such an event, than if a fleet of one hundred sail of the line were stationed on the coast of Barbary, to obstruct the Spanish fishery.

THE manufactures of these islands are tasseties, knit silk hose, silk garters, quilts, and bed-covers. In Canaria and Tenerife, coarse linens and gauze are made of the flax imported from Holland. White blankets and coarse  
cloths

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cloths are made in Canaria, from the wool of their own sheep. A very coarse kind of cloth, which is worn by the peasants, is also made in the rest of the islands; but on festivals, weddings, &c. the labouring people generally wear English coarse cloth. The exportation of raw silk is now prohibited, in order to encourage their silk manufacture. In the large towns, men are employed in weaving and as taylors; but in the villages, the women only exercise those trades.

To give some idea of the fertility and produce of Tenerife, they annually export no less than fifteen thousand pipes of wine and brandy, and a great quantity is consumed in the island.

THE current coin in the Canaries is the Mexican dollar, and the half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth parts of it. Besides these, there is the provincial real of plate, which is a small silver piece, of the value of five pence sterling; and the quart, a copper coin, equal in value to our half-penny, for ten of them make a real of plate. The provincial silver coin is not current in Lancerota and Fuertaventura; and is never exported, because it passes in the islands for more than its intrinsic value. But accounts are kept here in imaginary money, viz. in current dollars of ten reals of vellon each. The real of vellon is equal in value to eight of the above-mentioned quarts, so that the current dollar is exactly three shillings and four-pence, and six of them make just one pound sterling. Three sixteenths of the Mexican dollar pass for two rials of plate. Little or no gold coin is to be found in these islands.

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THE pound and smaller weights here are much the same with ours. The quintal, which is the island hundred weight, does not, like ours, weigh one hundred and twelve pounds, but only one hundred and four. The arroba is twenty-five pounds.

THE measures are the fanega or hanega, the almud, the liquid arroba, and the var.

THE first of these is the measure used for corn, cocoa, salt, &c. and almost contains the quantity of two English bushels. Twelve almuds make a fanega. The liquid arroba contains something more than three gallons; and the quantillo is nearly equal to our quart. The var is a measure for cloth, &c. and is about  $\frac{7}{8}$  less than the English yard.

## C H A P.

## C H A P. XVIII.

*Of the Government and Revenues of the Canary Islands.*

**H**A V I N G already given some account of the government of Lancerota and Fuertaventura, I need not say any thing of that of Gomera and Hierro, because they are governed much in the same manner as the above-mentioned islands. I shall now proceed to those called the King's Islands, viz. Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma.

WHEN the natives were reduced to the obedience of the crown of Spain, they were not deprived of their liberty, but put on an equality with their conquerors: an example of policy worthy of imitation. How the Spaniards came, soon after, in America, to act in a quite contrary manner, is hard to conceive; yet the Dutch, French, and English, far from following the good example given by the Spaniards in the Canary Islands, have erected, in the sugar-islands in the West Indies, the most absurd and barbarous governments that ever existed in any part of the globe, and which are by many degrees worse than the Spanish governments in America.

WHAT improvement or obedience can be expected in a country, where all the labouring people are slaves, and have no other principle

to excite them to obedience and industry, but the fear of punishment? which, after all, has never yet brought their labour to any degree of equality with that of indigent-free people, who have the sole disposal of the fruits of their labour.

Is it not amazing to consider how the English, with the most consummate insolence, rail against their Princes and Ministers of State, as infringing their liberties; while at the same time, they themselves are tyrannizing over their fellow-creatures in the most cruel and arbitrary manner. What idea must sober thinking people have of the English notions of liberty? Can they imagine this liberty any thing more than a power to be insolent to their superiors with impunity, and to oppress the poor with extreme rigour? Their oppression of the poor may be observed in other instances than in the treatment of their slaves in the West Indies, viz. their laws against vagabonds, i. e. poor strangers who have no settled habitation, and strolling players. Do not these very people, who make such a noise about liberty, deprive beggars of their natural freedom, by confining them in work-houses, contrary to their inclinations? yet these beggars compel nobody to give them a farthing; and if they use violence or fraud to support themselves, the law has provided punishments proportioned to the heinousness of their crimes. Why then cannot they, in a free country, have the liberty to expire in the street or open fields for want, if they should choose to do so rather than work?

BUT



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BUT to return from this digression, which is not altogether foreign to my subject. The Spaniards, after the conquest of the Canary Islands, incorporated with the natives in such a manner as to become one people: the consequence of this political union is, that the King of Spain can raise in these islands more soldiers and sea-men, who may be depended on, than in any other part of his dominions, three times the extent of the Canary Islands. To this advantage another may be added, the great number of people that annually go from hence to settle in his wide and uninhabited dominions in America.

THE lowest officer of justice in these islands, except the Alguazils, is the Alcalde; whose office is something like that of a Justice of Peace in England: in every town or village of note there is one. These magistrates are appointed by the Royal Audience of the city of Palmas in Canaria; they hold not their places for life, but only for a certain time: in matters of property they cannot take cognizance of any dispute, where the value of the thing contested, amounts to above seventeen rials, or seven shillings sterling. Over these magistrates is another, called the Alcalde Major, who is appointed in the same manner as the officers before-mentioned; he cannot decide a matter of property, when the value contested exceeds the sum of two hundred dollars: from the decisions of all these magistrates, appeals lie to the Tiniente and Corregidor. The first of these magistrates is a lawyer, and nominated by the Royal Audience; and the King appoints the latter, who is not obliged to be a

I 2 lawyer,

lawyer, but must have a Clerk, Secretary, or Assistant bred to the law, who is called his Assessor. The Corregidor generally holds his place for five years, but sometimes longer. Few of the natives of the islands are placed in this honourable office; for those that fill it are commonly natives of Spain. The proceedings in the Corregidor's court, and in that of the Tiniente are the same; and it would seem that these courts were originally intended as a check upon one another.

FROM the Corregidor and Tiniente appeals are made to the Royal Audience of Gran Canaria. This tribunal is composed of three Oidores or Judges, a Regent and Fiscal, who are generally natives of Spain, and always appointed by the King; of this court the Governor-general is always President, though he resides in Tenerife. From their determination, in criminal cases, there is no appeal; but in matters of property, appeals are carried to the Council or Audience of Seville in Spain:

THE standing forces in the Canary Islands, I do not reckon to amount to above one hundred and fifty men; but there is a militia properly regulated and embodied, of which the Governor-general of the islands is always commander in chief; the officers, viz. Colonels, Captains, and Subalterns, are all appointed by the King; and in case any of them die, the vacancy ought to be filled by seniority, but interest sometimes prevails against this regulation. The military officers, if they have a dispute with any other person, may cite him before a civil magistrate; but this last has no power to compel a military officer to appear before

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before his tribunal: but if a man should be any way injured by an officer of the militia, he may complain to his superior officer; and if he does not think he has got redress, he may complain to the Governor-general of the islands: from his sentence he may appeal to the Council of War in Spain, which, although it is so named, is in fact a civil court.

THE reader may perceive how easy it is for these military officers to oppress the inhabitants; yet when he considers that they have settled habitations, and do not move from place to place like the officers of standing forces, and are married and connected with the inhabitants of the towns where they reside, and where it is their interest to preserve their reputation, he will not wonder there is so little oppression in these islands: yet one must not expect to find such justice in matters of property here, as in England; I say, of property, for no man in this country dares to commit the greater acts of oppression or violence, because the injured party would stab the aggressor, let his rank be ever so great, and fly for refuge to the next church or convent, from whence no power could force him; there he might remain in safety until he could find an opportunity of escaping from the islands.

BESIDES the above-mentioned military officers, there are *Castillanos*, i. e. Governors or Captains of forts and castles, some of whom are appointed by the King, and others by the twelve *Regidores* of the islands, called the *Cavildo*; for some of the island forts belong to the King, the rest are under the direction of the *Regidores*. The King's forts

are garrisoned by the hundred and fifty standing forces; and as there are many of these forts, the reader may judge what number of men may be in each.

THE Regidores, as I have observed before, in the History of the Discovery and Conquest, are hereditary officers, who hold a court to regulate the price of provisions, to take care that the highways are kept in repair, to prevent public nuisances, and the plague from being brought into the island by shipping, &c. To defray the charge of repairing the roads, and other necessary works, the Regidores have power to lay a tax on the inhabitants: they have imposed a sort of excise on soap, which, I believe, produces a sum sufficient to defray these expences.

No man is allowed to land in these islands from on board any ship, until the master of her produces a bill of health from the port he was last in, or until the crew have been properly examined, whether or not they are free from the plague, or any other infectious distemper: before this is done, no boat except the pratique or health-boat, dares to come near her.

WHEN I wanted to go to Tenerife from the coast of Africa, where a certificate of health cannot be had, I used to touch at Lancerota or Fuertaventura, where I always got a bill of health without the least difficulty, which procured me admittance at Tenerife, Canaria, or Palma.

THE King's revenue in these islands is divided into the following branches:

I. LAS

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I. LAS Tercias Reales, or royal third of the tythes.

II. THE monopoly of tobacco and snuff.

III. THE acknowledgment annually paid by the nobility to the King for their titles.

IV. THE duty of seven per cent. on imports and exports.

V. THE duty on the Canary West India commerce.

THE first of these taxes is improperly named the third of the tythes, for it scarcely amounts to the tenth part of them; the King finds in this, to his cost, what it is to be in partnership with the clergy. The tercias reales are a gift made by the Pope to the King of Spain, in consideration of that Prince's maintaining a perpetual war against the Infidels.

THE second branch of the revenue consists in snuff and tobacco, which the Stankeros, or King's officers for that purpose, sell for the King's account; no other persons being allowed to deal in these articles.

THE third branch of the revenue is hardly worth mentioning, as it amounts to a mere trifle.

ALL these branches together, the fifth excepted, I am informed, do not bring into the King's treasury above fifty thousand pounds per annum, nett money, clear of all charges, such as the officers' salaries, the expences of government, &c.

WERE the inhabitants of these islands to agree among themselves, to pay seventy-five thousand pounds nett money annually into the King's treasury, on condition that he would abolish all duties and customs in the islands,



and suffer a free import and export of merchandize to and from all parts of the world, I am persuaded it would be of great advantage to them, by the increase of trade, shipping, seamen, and wealth, which would in a short time be surprizingly great.

ON the 21st of July, 1553, the French made a descent on the island of Palma, with seven hundred men; but the natives repulsed and obliged them to reembark with loss, although the islanders had scarcely any other weapons than sticks and stones.

SINCE the conquest of the Canary Islands, no foreign power has fitted out a fleet with design to subdue them, excepting one, which Sir William Monson says the Dutch sent against the island of Gran Canaria in the year 1599. It consisted of seventy-three ships, commanded by Peter Van Doist: at their return to Holland, a book was published, intitled, "The Conquest of the Grand Canaries, made that summer, by seventy-three sail of ships, sent out by the command and direction of the States General, &c. with the taking of a town in the island of Gomera." By which title, Sir William Monson observes, they endeavoured to make the world believe that they had conquered all the Canary Islands; whereas they only surprized and took the city of Palmas, in the island of Gran Canaria; where they made no prisoners or booty, the inhabitants having retired, with all their effects, to the mountains, so that they only recovered thirty-six prisoners. But after they had taken the town, some of the soldiers, without their officers leave, penetrated into



into the country in search of plunder, but not being acquainted with the proper passes, the Spaniards killed a great number, and obliged the rest to retire. Nevertheless, they rifled the cloysters, monasteries, and churches, and then burnt them to the ground; for which Sir William Monson reflects upon them severely. After this the Dutch General took Gomera without opposition, for the inhabitants fled to the mountains, where they killed many of the Dutch stragglers.

IN 1657, a fleet of English men of war, commanded by Admiral Blake, came into the road of Santa Cruz, and destroyed the Spanish plate-fleet, which had put in there. The inhabitants of Tenerife say, that the bay was then in a defenceless state, compared to what it is at present.

IN the war between Spain and England, which commenced in 1739, two English ships, one of them a man of war of sixty guns, attacked the port and village of Gomera. When they began to fire, the inhabitants were extremely frightened; but finding the cannonading to continue long and do no damage, they took courage to such a degree, that the young people ran to and fro in search of, and gathering the cannon-balls. The English perceiving they were firing to no purpose, manned all their boats, in order to land, but by that time the island was alarmed, and the militia had reached the port, and were formed in a hollow behind the beach, to receive the enemy: when the English perceiving their numbers and resolution, they thought proper to retire.

IN the course of the same war, some English privateers landed a considerable number of men on the island of Palma, who were quickly attacked and routed by the inhabitants, who gave them no quarter; among them were some Irish Catholics, who, when they saw their danger, opened their bosoms, shewed their crosses, and begged for quarter, but in vain, for the incensed Palmans killed them all, except one man, who was wounded and lay some time among the slain, the natives supposing he was dead: afterwards finding him alive, they brought him to the town of Santa Cruz in Palma, where he was cured of his wounds, and treated as a prisoner of war, till he was exchanged.

THE inhabitants of the Canary Islands are extremely averse to war, because it ruins their trade, and interrupts the intercourse subsisting among them. In the course of the last war with England, they endeavoured to procure a neutrality for their islands.

ALL the English privateers that ever went to cruize among these islands, were disappointed; for they could take nothing except a few barks loaded with corn, or salt-fish from the coast of Barbary. Those who lay in wait for the return of the Canary West Indiamen to Santa Cruz, had as little success: indeed, unless a cruiser has somebody on board who is intimately acquainted with these islands, and the weather that prevails there, the crew will find their hopes of gain frustrated.

A MASTER of a ship of any nation which may happen to be at war with Spain, may, if he manages prudently, trade at Port Orotava, without

without the least danger of the natives being able to seize his vessel; but she must have some guns, and be well manned.

IN each of the islands, a watch is posted on some eminence, to give notice to the inhabitants of the approach of shipping; when an uncommon number appears, a signal is made to alarm the country.

AFTER the bell for evening prayer tolls, no boats are allowed to land, or to go from the shore; nor are boats permitted at any time to depart from a port without a licence from the Governor or Captain, even though it is only to go a-fishing, or to a ship in the road.

EXCLUSIVE of the Negro slaves belonging to the Count of Gomera, several gentlemen in Tenerife have a few; but they bear no more proportion to the number of white servants in that island, than the blacks in London do to the rest of its inhabitants.

THE natives have this excellent law in favour of their Negroes, that if a master treats his slave with injustice or cruelty, he the latter may oblige him to sell him immediately. The same law, if I am not mistaken, takes place in the Spanish West Indies. What a shame is it, that these advocates for liberty, the English and Dutch, should be comparatively speaking, the only people who oppress the poor, to whom they are solely indebted for their being able to live in splendor, idleness, and luxury.

## C H A P. XIX.

*Of the Ecclesiastical Government of the Canary Islands.*

**T**HE Bishop of the Canary Islands is a suffragan to the Arch-bishop of Seville, in Spain, and has a revenue of six thousand pounds sterling per annum. He resides in the city of Palmas, in Canaria, where he is treated with all the respect and homage due to a Prince.

THE Provincials, or superiors, of the different orders of Friars and Nuns, live in the city of St. Christobal de la Laguna. They are not accountable to any but the Generals of their respective orders at Rome.

IN each of the islands there is a house belonging to the Holy Office, or Inquisition, with its proper officers, whose duty it is to prevent all appearance of heresy, or disrespect to the clergy. They have power to apprehend and confine suspected persons, without giving any reason to the civil magistrate for so doing: after examining them sufficiently, they are either discharged, or sent by the first vessel to the Supreme Tribunal of the Holy Office at Canaria.

WHEN a foreign ship arrives at the islands, and the master is permitted to come ashore, he is conducted to an officer of the Inquisition, who

who examines him, to know if he has in his ship any books or pictures, against the doctrine or ceremonies of the church of Rome; and obliges him to sign a paper, by which he engages, if he has any, not to land or expose them to view; and also that he shall not, while he remains in the country, speak against the Romish religion, or mock its rites and ceremonies.

VERY lately the officers of the Inquisition inspected all the libraries in the islands, and either put a mark on those books which they judged improper to be read, or carried them away.

As all the natives of these islands are zealous members of the Romish church, the Tribunal of the Holy Office seldom has an opportunity to exercise its extensive authority. There is no credit to be given to the many slanderous and false accounts we hear in protestant countries of the procedure of the inquisition; such as its officers carrying away virgins into their prisons to gratify their lust, and falsely accusing rich men of heresy, in order to strip them of their wealth, &c. I think I may venture to assert, that no man or woman in the Canary Islands, has been so dealt with: some, indeed, have been imprisoned and punished for those offences which properly come under the cognizance of the inquisition. As the reader may be curious to know some of these cases, I shall relate a few which happened before my time, and some while I frequented the island. Many years ago, a gentleman in the city of Laguna fell in love with a Nun, whom he prevailed on to escape from the convent,

vent, and embark with him in a Dutch ship at Santa Cruz, which was ready to sail for Holland. Immediately after they went on board, the vessel sailed away; but, meeting with some disaster at sea, was obliged to put back to the bay of Santa Cruz, where, by order of the Inquisition, she was strictly searched, until the unfortunate lovers were discovered, who were brought ashore and clapped into prison, where they remained for a short time, and then were publicly beheaded on a scaffold at the city of Laguna. The shame and infamy of their punishment were more bitter to them than death itself. No one can have an idea of this, but those who have lived in countries where the Inquisition prevails.

A MASTER of a French ship lying in the road of Orotava, was standing near the port, conversing with some merchants, when the Host passed close by them; all the merchants, on perceiving it, kneeled down in token of respect and reverence, as is customary in that part of the world; but the Frenchman, being a Huguenot, stood upright with his head covered, notwithstanding all the endeavours of the merchants to make him kneel and take off his hat. Next day, the merchants to whom the Captain was consigned, were sent for by the officers of the Inquisition, and examined concerning the affair. They cleared themselves, but could not dissuade them from arresting the Captain, although his ship was almost ready to sail: luckily for the Frenchman, the merchants in a body, with some discreet clergymen, went to the Inquisition, and made its officers



ficers sensible that the taking any notice of what had happened, would answer no purpose but that of frightening the Dutch, English, and Hamburgers from coming to the island, which would totally destroy their commerce.

AN English Roman Catholic Master of a ship was taken by the Spaniards in the war of 1739, and carried into Tenerife, where he remained some time a prisoner at large. He happened to be with some company at a friend's house, when the officers of the Inquisition, with some assistants, surrounded the house, and hurried him away to their prison: he was soon after sent to the prison of the Inquisition at Gran Canaria, where he was confined above two years. During all that war the English Consul remained in Tenerife, and hearing what had happened, sent an account of the affair to a person of influence in England, intreating him at the same time to use his interest in favour of the Captain, thus unjustly detained in the prison of the Inquisition at Canaria. The Consul's letter had the desired effect; for an English man of war, some time after, came into the road of Palmas, in Canaria, having many prisoners on board: his orders were, not to exchange any until he should obtain the enlargement of this unfortunate Englishman. He informed the Canarians of his orders, who, having many of their friends prisoners on board the man of war, solicited the Holy Office, and procured his liberty; I say solicited, for the civil power there cannot oblige the inquisitors to do any thing contrary to their inclination.

THE account the Captain gives of this affair (for he now lives in London) is, that he was  
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proceeded against after the same manner as the Holy Office of Malaga, in Spain, did against one Martin, who afterwards published an account of his confinement and sufferings. Some time after they had exhorted him, in vain, to accuse himself and confess, they told him plainly that he was accused of being a Free Mason. As the Captain did not then understand Spanish enough to comprehend their meaning, the Inquisitors employed on this occasion for an interpreter, an old man, a native of Scotland, who, by some accident, came to that island when a youth, and embraced the Romish faith, but had almost entirely lost his mother-tongue: this interpreter informed him, that the Holy Office accused him of being a Franc Mason (for so he termed a Free Mason); the Captain still not understanding him, asserted his innocence, although they put him to the torture to make him confess. At last he perceived their meaning; but, fearing he might fare the worse if he confessed, he continued to deny he understood their meaning: this is all I could learn from him, except that, out of the time he was confined by the inquisition, he passed nine months in the dungeon.

In the year 1749, an English ship, bound to Guinea, was wrecked on the coast of Barbary, adjacent to these islands, where a Canary fishing-boat took up the crew, and brought them to the island of Gran Canaria. The surgeon, being informed that good physicians and surgeons were scarce there, and being invited by the gentry to settle among them, he consented, and practised physic for some time, with great applause. The Priests and  
 Priars,

Friars, who had been labouring to convert him, pretended that he had given them his promise to embrace the Romish faith and publicly renounce his heresy. Soon after this he fell sick; they plied him hard, but to no purpose; for, after his recovery, he persisted in his errors; which so exasperated them, that they compelled him to leave the island.

A FRENCH Huguenot of mean circumstances, who kept a shop in Tenerife, happening to be at Lancerota upon business, was importuned by a beggar for alms, having a figure of the Virgin in his hands, bedecked with flowers (which is customary there on certain festivals,) which he made use of to enforce his suit. The Frenchman, vexed at his importunity, said, "Begone: what signifies your Virgin to me? Indeed, if you would beg for the sake of some pretty girl, you might have better success." With these words he turned away, not dreaming of any bad consequences. The beggar went off, muttering and vowing revenge against the heretical dog, as he called him. The poor Frenchman had reason to repent of his ill-timed gallantry, for he was soon after seized by the officers of the Inquisition, and confined in prison, until they found an opportunity of a bark going to Canaria. Before he was sent thither, he wrote a letter to one of his countrymen at Tenerife, informing him of his misfortune; and that he had been rack-ing his thoughts ever since to find out the cause, but could charge himself with no offence against the Inquisition, excepting the affair of the beggar; adding, that being conscious of his innocence, he hoped soon to get clear;

clear: but in this he was mistaken, for he was confined at Canaria for more than a year. It was observed, that when he returned from thence to Tenerife, he looked fat and fair, but ever after attended mass, and otherwise behaved himself like a good Catholic, which it seems he had not done before.

THE last person whom I remember to have been apprehended by the Inquisition, was the Marquis de San André \*, a man of near eighty years of age. He was charged with maintaining some errors, in a book which he had published some time before; but the real cause was the keen spirit of satire by which he had rendered himself obnoxious to the clergy. He was not shut up in the prison of the Inquisition, but allowed to range within the walls of a convent in Canaria, where he remained, if I am not mistaken, more than twelve months. He died about a year ago, soon after he was discharged. It is said, that the Inquisitors, according to their usual form, asked him, on his first examination, if he believed the Holy Office to be holy, just, and knowing? He replied, that he absolutely denied it could have any pretensions to knowledge; and as to justice, he referred them to his own case; and lastly, that he had some scruples about its sanctity. He

\* The Marquis de San André, as was observed in the former part of this work, was descended, in a right line, from Don Alonzo Ferdinando de Lugo, who assisted at the conquest of Canaria, and procured a grant from the King of Spain of the conquest of Palma and Tenerife. It was chiefly owing to his prudent conduct, that the natives were converted to the Romish faith.

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durst not have answered in this manner, had he not been assured of the protection of the court of Madrid: and as he was not punished, made no submissions, nor did penance when confined or after he was discharged, this may be looked upon as the first step taken by the King of Spain and his Ministers to retrench the power of the clergy in the Canary Islands: The court could not have pitched on a more proper person to support against the Inquisition, in order to try if it was possible to curb the unlimited power of that tribunal: and as they have succeeded in the first attempt, it is to be hoped they will go on, until the church is sufficiently humbled, and rendered absolutely dependent on the state.

It is not possible for a person to live in any of the Canary Islands, excepting Tenerife, who is not a member of the church of Rome; and even in Tenerife no professed Jew, Pagan, or Mahomedan can at any rate be a member of society: neither indeed Protestants, unless they are merchants of consequence. The clergy do not care to meddle with them; probably they have orders from Rome not to disturb them, lest they should be embroiled with the English or Dutch, and the cause of the dispute thereby become public, which would ultimately hurt the interest of the church. Formerly it was no uncommon thing for the Inquisition to seize on the Dutch and English Consuls.

THOSE Protestants in Tenerife who are most exposed to the censure of the Inquisition are the French Huguenots, for they have none  
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to protect them from it. The French Consuls here have always been men of narrow minds, who neither kept up the dignity of their office, or regarded the glory of their nation; otherwise they would have protected their countrymen from the insults of the clergy, even though they had professed Paganism. I have often wondered what could induce Huguenots openly to profess their religion in this country, when they dissemble some of their principles in their own; for if a man, for his interest, conforms in one point to the religion of the country he lives in, why not to all? It is consistent with reason, that a man should either obstinately refuse to throw a grain of incense on the altars of the gods of his country even in the view of death, or be the foremost in complying with every ceremony of the worship paid to them.

ALL the inhabitants of the Canary Islands are zealous Catholics; and when they see any of a different persuasion behave with common decency, they seem to be greatly surprized, imagining heretics to differ little from brutes; for these people are by far more ignorant and superstitious than the Catholics of Germany and other countries, where Papists and Protestants dwell in the same civil community. Yet the natives here do not pay so much homage to the clergy as the inhabitants of Portugal, the Azores, Cape de Verd, and Madeira Islands do to theirs, for the women in these parts kiss the borders of the Friars garments, when they pass along the streets. The Canary clergymen lead more regular lives than those



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those of the above-mentioned islands\*, and carry not their zeal against heretics so far as to hinder them from burying their dead in the earth, which is the case in the island of Madeira, although all its trade and wealth depends entirely on the English. The merchants of the English nation residing in that island, behave, in one instance, to the church with a spirit truly noble, becoming, and worthy of imitation by all who differ in sentiment from the religion of their country; for rather than demean themselves by cringing to the clergy, they cast their dead into the sea, although they are sure of being permitted to bury them in the earth, if they were only to condescend to request that favour from the church †.

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\* The Portuguese Priests and Friars in the Cape de Verd Islands are ignorant and superstitious to the greatest degree. Notwithstanding their vow of celibacy, they keep mistresses openly, without the least appearance of shame, and have their children running about their houses and convents. While I lived in South Barbary, a Moor, who by some accident had been some time in the Cape de Verds, said to me in the following broken English, "Portuguese Priest no better as fool; he say he love God better, very much indeed, and not take wife; yet have child in house his: how man have child and not have wife? Indeed Portuguese Padre all the same as fool."

† The Catholics evade the charge of inhumanity brought against their religion, by its adversaries, thus: why should the principles and practice of a few blind, ignorant, and superstitious zealots, who are members of our communion, be brought as a charge

ALL strangers who are not Roman Catholics, are strongly importuned, on their arrival, to become proselytes; but it has been observed, that all such as were prevailed on to change their religion, with a view of bettering their fortunes, fell soon after into poverty, and sunk in the esteem of those very people who were so eager to convert them.

WHILE I frequented this country, the crew of a Canary fishing bark brought, from the coast of the Desert to the city of Palma, a

charge against our most holy religion? Does our church approve of their detestable inhumanity? I would only ask these Catholics this simple question: Has the Inquisition ever testified its dislike of that inhuman law, viz. the Portugueze forbidding the English to bury their dead in the island of Madeira? This is one of the many things which every day give them the lie.

On the other hand, Is it consistent with that moderation and hatred of persecution? Is it consistent with those principles of civil as well as religious liberty, which the Protestant clergy of all denominations profess, that they are so very zealous for putting the laws in execution against blasphemy, infidelity, and heresy, or at least what they are pleased to call by these names? These crimes disturb not in the least the civil community. Should not one be inclined to think, therefore, that they would have endeavoured to obtain a repeal of those laws, so destructive to the liberty of the subject! They never made the least motion towards it; and when they speak of them, it is with an earnest wish, that they were ten times more rigorous: and it is not uncommon to hear them rail against the best of governments, because it winks at the transgressions of these laws.

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boy and a girl, his sister, who were decoyed on board: the boy was then about eleven years of age, and the girl about nine; they were both dressed in antelopes skins. Shortly after their arrival, the fishermen of Palmas went in a body, and complained to the Royal Audience against the people who had brought away the children, and begged that they might be sent back to their parents; enforcing this reasonable request, by representing the danger they were in of being massacred by their relations, who would infallibly wreak their vengeance on the Canarymen who should attempt to land on their coast. This representation had its desired effect; the Audience ordered the captives soon after to be sent to their own country, with some presents to their disconsolate parents.

BEFORE their departure, many artifices were used to induce them to change their religion: they were genteelly clad, elegantly lodged, and entertained by people of the first rank, who endeavoured to make every thing in the island as agreeable to them as possible; but all this could not shake the boy's constancy, for he continued firmly attached to the religion of his fathers: the girl, tempted by the gaiety of the ladies dress, and other pleasures of the place, seemed to waver; however her brother had so much influence over her, as to prevent her conversion.

SOME of the natives of the Canary Islands who were intelligent in foreign affairs, often asked me the reason why our commerce so far exceeded that of the Spaniards; my answer

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stantly was, that the power of the Inquisition and the church, in temporals, infringed their liberty, as well as cramped their industry, without both which no nation can make any figure in commerce.

I TOLD them that the excellency of the English constitution lay in this, that no man could be punished (otherwise than by being excluded from the religious communion of the society to which he belonged) for any crime merely irreligious: but in this I went too far, for there are now some laws existing in England, whereby an amiable member of society may be punished for nonconformity to the precepts of the church.

Is it not surprising that the English nation, now so highly esteemed abroad, should suffer itself to be so duped by the craft of designing priests, as to lay their soldiers and seamen, who are always ready to shed their blood in their country's service, under the cruel necessity of either debauching their consciences, or losing their subsistence? At this time, none of our brave reformed officers, who served in our late glorious expeditions, can receive their half-pay until they produce certificates of their conformity to the established religion! Yet these hypocritical and double-dealing gentry, the clergy, are perpetually dunning our ears with a noise about moderation and aversion to persecution. They ought, indeed, to behave with more moderation; for it is not altogether improbable that the time is at hand, when the governments in Europe particularly the French, will no longer puzzle themselves how to find  
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ways and means to raise money for the necessities of the state, but will appropriate the revenues of the clergy to that use, and so avoid the danger of incensing their subjects by laying on them unpopular though necessary taxes.

VOLTAIRE, from such instances of the inhumanity of the clergy, takes occasion to reproach Christianity as the cause of all those evils; and craftily endeavours to make us believe that he is persuaded the religion professed in Europe, and Christianity, are the same. In this he is not so ingenuous as his brother philosopher, the famous Rousseau; for this last boldly asserts, that they have not the least affinity, well knowing that were Christians ever so numerous and powerful in any country, they could never, without renouncing their religion, make Christianity a term of communion, punish infidels for blaspheming against its doctrines, or exact pensions from unbelievers to support their bishops.

## C H A P. XX.

*Directions for Sailing among the Canary Islands.*

**W**HEN a ship lies at Palma, wanting to go to Lancerota, and will not wait for a fair wind (which indeed seldom blows there, especially in the summer season), let her stand over to the north-west side of Tenerife, and beat up along-shore until she weathers point Nago; from thence, with the wind that generally prevails in these parts, she will be able to weather Gran Canaria, and fetch the point of Handia, in Fuertaventura, or perhaps Morro Gable, from whence it is easy to beat up to Point Negro, along the east side of the island, because the sea there is always smooth. It is not quite so easy to beat up from Point Negro to the island of Lobos; yet it may be done without difficulty, when the weather is moderate: if the wind should happen to blow hard, she may stop in the bay of Las Playas until it proves more favourable.

FROM the island of Lobos she will find no difficulty in beating up to Porto de Naos in Lancerota. I would not advise any man, who is not perfectly well acquainted with that harbour, to attempt to carry a ship in, because the entrances are very narrow.

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IT is common for ships which come loaded from Europe to Santa Cruz, in Tenerife, to have part of their cargoes to unload at Port Orotava: these ships, when the trade-wind blows hard, will sometimes find it impracticable to weather Point Nago; when this is the case, let her bear away to the leeward point of the island, and keep near the shore, where, if she does not meet with a southerly wind, she will be carried by the current, in the space of twenty-four hours, from the south-west point of the island unto Point Teno, from whence she may easily beat up to Port Orotava; for when the wind blows excessive strong at Point Nago, it is moderate weather all the way from Point Teno until within two or three leagues of Point Nago. But I would not advise a ship to bear away as above directed, unless when the trade-wind blows so fresh that she cannot weather Point Nago; because in moderate weather there is little or no wind stirring on the coast between Teno and Port Orotava.

I WARN all strangers to these islands, to observe that Alegranza, Lancerota, and Fuertaventura are, in almost all our maps and sea-charts, placed twenty-five or thirty miles too far to the southward; for the true position of Alegranza is about the latitude of twenty-nine degrees thirty minutes north.

IN all our maps and charts of the coast of Barbary adjacent to the Canary Islands, that part of it situated between the latitude of twenty-nine degrees thirty minutes, and twenty-seven degrees thirty minutes north,

is falsely described, as may easily be perceived by the general map of the islands, and the African coast adjacent to them, which is annexed to this work. By the wrong position of the aforesaid part of the coast of Barbary, in our maps and charts, I am certain many have been deceived, and thereby run their ships ashore in the night.

## A P P E N D I X.

**I**N describing the manners and customs of the natives of these islands, I forgot to mention, that the gentry are generally poor, and therefore not being able otherwise to provide for their younger sons, educate many of them for the church. Not a few young ladies take the veil and shut themselves up in nunneries for life, because they cannot find husbands suitable to their rank, and do not choose to depend on their elder brothers, or other relations, for subsistence, or because they have met with disappointments in love: a few, being flattered and puffed up by the Nuns and Clergy, with a conceit of their own sanctity, are prevailed on to take the vows and quit the world; but the greater part of them have time afterwards to repent at leisure, and find that a mistress of a family has it as much in her power to exercise every Christian virtue, as a woman shut up in a nunnery.

ABOUT two years and a half ago, a monastery of Nuns, in the villa of Orotava, took fire in the morning while it was dark, and was burnt so suddenly, that the Nuns had but just time to save their lives: it is the custom of many people in that country, when the weather is hot, to sleep without shirts or shifts; therefore some of the poor Nuns, not having time to cast any thing about them, made their  
escape

escape stark naked, when some of the crowd, who were assembled on that occasion, took off their cloaks and threw them upon them. Several fellows went into the cells of the convent, and, in sight of all the crowd, sat down composedly, and crammed themselves with the preserves and sweetmeats belonging to the nunnery, notwithstanding the Vicar called aloud and threatened them with excommunication. This I mention to give some idea of the thievish disposition of the lower class of people. As to the Nuns, some were deposited in their parents houses, or those of their nearest relations, and the remainder in a large empty house, until they were distributed into other nunneries in the island.

WHEN the mistress of a family dies, some of her husband's relations come to his house and reside with him some time, to divert his grief, and depart not until another relation comes to relieve the first; the second is relieved by a third, and so on, until the term of a year is expired.

ALL the orchilla-weed of Tenerife, Canaria, and Palma, belongs to the King, and is part of his revenue; the orchilla of the other islands belongs to their respective proprietors.

THE Priests not being satisfied with their tythes, nor the Friars with the revenues of their convents, have found ways and means to load the inhabitants of these islands with many impositions, which would be tedious to enumerate; and though they are not all established by law, yet it would be dangerous to refuse the payment of any of them. For instance, every fishing-bark from the coast of Barbary

Barbary, is obliged to deliver a certain quantity of fish to each convent; and when the Mendicant Friars go about from house to house, they are liberally supplied with alms; if any one was to refuse them, or give a surly answer, he would surely be marked as an object of their vengeance, and thereby be exposed to the Inquisition. All ranks of men here, who have any point in view, or scheme to pursue, take care in the first place to secure the leading men of the clergy in their interest; when this is done, all other obstacles are easily surmounted.

FATHER Feyjoo's Critical Theatre, a book of many volumes, is much read at present by the natives of the Canary Islands. As it is to be had in every great town in Europe, I shall make no more mention of it than this, that its author's principal design seems to be an attempt to prop the sinking credit of the church of Rome, by giving up many of its miracles (as the produce of the overheated imaginations of enthusiastic and ignorant Curates and Friars, or as pious frauds), in order to preserve the whole from being looked upon as the cunning invention of priests. Some free-thinkers and religious Protestants, fondly imagine this book to be the forerunner of infidelity or reformation in Spain; but if they will take the pains to examine it more narrowly, they will find that the author thought it was better that one member should perish, than the whole body.





